Soap opera is over; Kris drops charges against Joey

Story on PAGE A17

Arnold muscles past sex charges

KAYANG-KAYA YAN NG TERMINATOR

SACRAMENTO/SAN JOSE—Battling perceived villains in the media and the Democratic Party with characteristic testosterone, Arnold Schwarzenegger brushed aside sexual misconduct charges

ARNOLD/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, October 7, 2003 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 301 P15

So where's Lacson?

SC ruling on Kuratong case out anytime now

GMA urges Asean unity after failed WTO talks

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BALI, Indonesia (via PLDT)—The recent collapse of the World Trade Organization talks should be a wake-up call for the Third World to unite in fighting unfair global trade issues, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday ahead of a summit on Southeast Asia's plans for greater economic integration by 2020.

Leaders from India to Japan were arriving on the Indonesian resort island of Bali—one year after it was devastated by terrorist bombings—for a two-day summit on trade and antiterror efforts among the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations and four big neighbors.

Asean chose this tropical resort for this year's conference to show it would not be cowed by Muslim militants blamed for last year's attacks. Security was extraordinarily tight, with police checking vehicles for bombs and military frogmen patrolling beaches on jet skis.

Talks leading up to the summit have been soured by the refusal of Burma (Myanmar) to release high-profile democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi—an embarrassment for Burma's fellow Asean members and a hindrance to the region's efforts to attract foreign investment.

Ms Macapagal cited the WTO collapse as a reason for countries to get more engaged in regional groups like Asean. The talks in Cancun, Mexico, fell through in part because developing nations rejected demands to cut tariffs on agricultural imports unless wealthy countries agreed to eliminate farm export subsidies.

"The collapse of the WTO talks in Mexico unraveled the disparity in perception between First and

GMA/ A6

PRESIDENT Macapagal receives a traditional welcome upon her arrival at the Ngurah Rai International Airport in the resort island of Bali, Indonesia, to attend a two-day Asean summit on trade and antiterrorism efforts. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

By Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson has made himself scarce amid reports that the Supreme Court will rule anytime now against him and 33 others implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case.

As a principal suspect, Lacson faces arrest should the high tribunal call for the reopening of the multiple murder case against him.

A ranking Philippine National Police official identified with Lacson said only Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia might be around to face the arresting officers if the tribunal hands down its decision.

That's because only Zubia among the police officers implicated in the case may be in the country, the PNP official told the INQUIRER. "Even if they're here, they won't allow themselves to be captured alive," he said.

Lacson was the head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Habagat when 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang were killed eight years ago. Their bullet-riddled bodies were found on the Tandang Sora flyover on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City on May 18, 1995.

Witnesses said Lacson's group seized the suspected gang members but they were summarily executed while in the custody of the arresting officers.

Ermin Garcia Jr., chief of staff of Lacson, said the opposition senator was in the country. "He's in town, but I have no idea where," he said.

"He is probably missing two people like (National Bureau of Investigation chief Reynaldo) Wycoco and (Police Director Eduardo) Matillano, who are after him," Garcia said. "Otherwise, I have not heard anything unusual about his movements."

Lacson deferred yesterday his delivery in the Senate of what should have been the last part of his exposé against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom he accused of laundering at least

SO WHERE'S/ A4

TAN on self-giving: "To be like a candle that burns itself out." MA. CERES P. DOYO

Sr. Christine Tan: She had given her all

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SR. CHRISTINE Tan, a true friend of the poor, Good Shepherd nun, human rights advocate and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, died early yesterday morning. She was 72.

"I have no regrets," she told the INQUIRER only recently. "I have given my all." Of her seven-month bout with cancer, she said with a twinkle in her eye: "I am like a lamb in the Shepherd's hand."

In prayer and in the bosom of the poor, she said, she had found the "pearl of great price."

Sister Christine's body was cremated immediately, which was her wish. She had been a nun for more than 40 years.

Her remains were brought to the Assumption parish church on Leveriza Street in Malate, Manila where a Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 9 a.m. today. This was also her wish—to have a meaningful eucharistic celebration with the countless poor she so loved.

After that a vigil will be held at the Religious of the Good Shepherd compound in Quezon City, where her remains will be interred after the 9 a.m. Mass tomorrow.

Sister Christine, together with several Good Shepherd nuns, lived and worked among the poor of Malate for more than 20 years. She founded the Alay Kapwa Christian Community and helped set up cooperatives and livelihood projects for the poor in Manila, Cavite, Quezon and Cebu.

But most of all, she encouraged the poor to come close to God through prayer and by living the gospel. She wanted them to regain their dignity.

The poor have heaped praises on her, but Sister Christine was not one to revel in them. Awards and recognition here and abroad she did not seek, but they came anyway. She considered them "bubbles that disappear with a sneeze."

She traveled light, with only the most basic things in the nuns' small abode in

SR. CHRISTINE/ A4

Lakas sees no need for GMA draft

By Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

PREEMPTED by President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that she will stand for election in May, the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats sees no more need for a resolution drafting her as its standard-bearer at the party's national directorate meeting today.

Instead, party members attending the meeting at Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila, will come up with a resolution expressing their gratitude to the President for heeding their clamor to run to prevent the party's breakup, Lakas secretary general Heherson Alvarez said yesterday.

During the meeting, some 600 members of the Lakas-CMD directorate will ask the executive committee to come up with a short list of possible running mates of the President and a senatorial lineup.

The list will be presented for nomination and affirmation during the Lakas na-

LAKAS/ A7

Abus eyed in abduction of 6 workers in Borneo

KUALA LUMPUR—Armed kidnappers aboard a speedboat raided a remote tourist resort in the jungles of Malaysian Borneo, seizing six people before escaping, Malaysia's police chief yesterday said.

Three Indonesian and three Filipino migrant workers—all men in their 30s—were taken in the attack on the Borneo Paradise Eco-Farm Resort in eastern Sabah state at about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Malaysia's Inspector General of Police Norian Mai said at a news conference.

Norian said the kidnappers were believed to be Malaysians, possibly pirates seeking ransom. He said authorities did not believe any foreign group was involved.

A senior officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, however, said the Abu Sayyaf could have been involved as the kidnappers and their hostages were believed to be heading toward the islands of Mindanao.

"The capabilities of the Abu Sayyaf have been degraded ... but we do not completely rule out the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf in this particular incident," Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, told reporters in a briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

"The fact that they are headed toward Mindanao would indicate that it could have been a Filipino armed group," Garcia added.

Diplomats also said the raid bore some of the hallmarks of two attacks in 2000 on dive resorts in Malaysia by the Abu Sayyaf, a Moro bandit group operating in Western Mindanao. The ranks of the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, is believed to have been decimated amid relent-

ABUS/ A6

Judges go on mass leave, press benefits

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

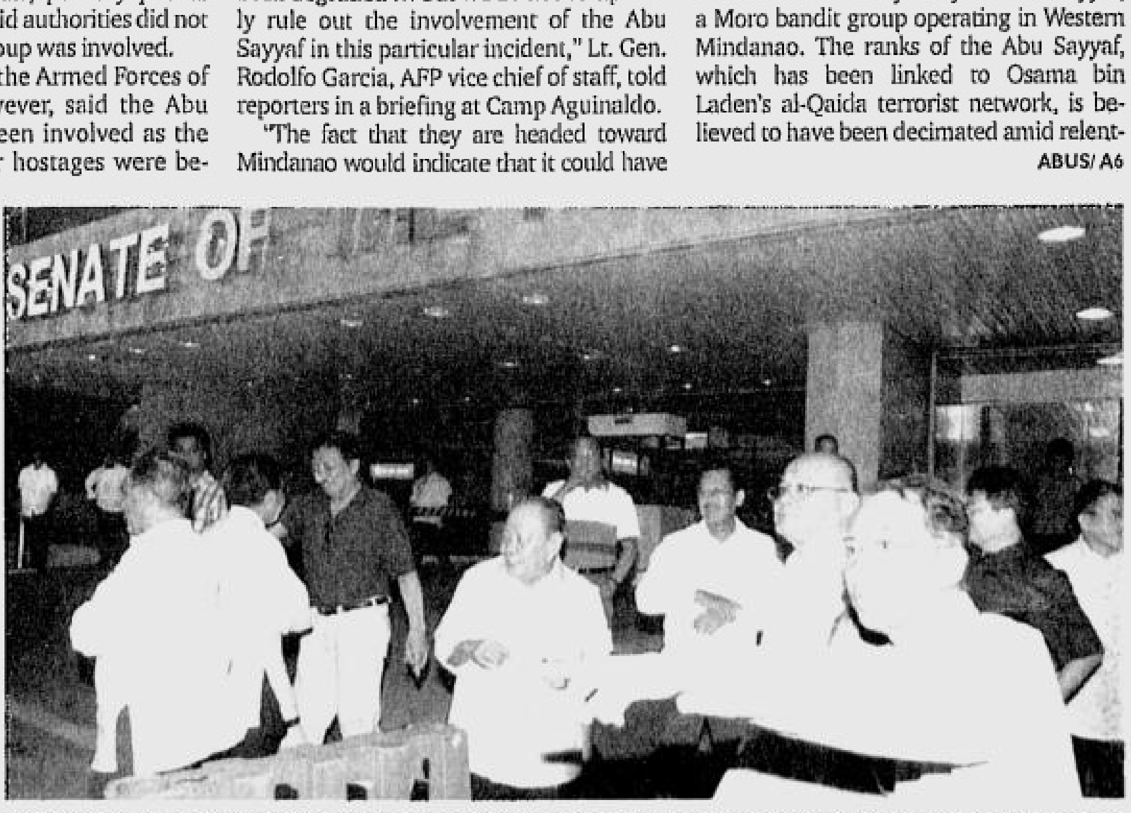
HUNDREDS of judges and court employees in Metro Manila and certain parts of the country hung their gavels as they went on mass leave yesterday to protest the delay in the Senate's approval of a bill increasing their allowances.

"This has been dragging on since the time of President [Fidel] Ramos. This has overstretched our patience. We are hoping that the deliberations [on Senate Bill 2018] will be finished before Congress ends," said Judge Marino de la Cruz, president of the Philippine Judges Association (PJA).

Supreme Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. said the judges did not violate any rules since they filed their leaves of absence and had a skeleton crew in their offices.

Leading the protest were the PJA, which is composed of re-

JUDGES/ A4



MEMBERS of the Metropolitan Judges Association of the Philippines walk out of the Senate building in disgust over the delay in the Senate's passage of a bill increasing their allowances. JESS YUSON

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rains. Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/07/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Ombudsman opens Mikey probe

By Volt Contreras and Alcuin Papa

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has started its investigation into allegations that a presidential son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, used a dummy to import 17 thoroughbred race horses from Australia tax-free.

"We don't care if he's the President's son. We believe that the proper thing to do is investigate the matter," Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos, the Ombudsman spokesperson, told reporters yesterday.

The Ombudsman probe will not only cover Arroyo but all agencies involved in the irregular deal, including the Philippine Sports Commission, Nocos said.

But a statement issued by his lawyer Noel Flores, Arroyo expressed "confidence he will be cleared of any participation in the controversy."

Arroyo assured the Ombudsman of his full cooperation in the probe and urged the PSC and racehorse owner Lamberto Almeda Jr. to extend their full cooperation to the Ombudsman.

"We are gratified there has been speedy action by the Constitutionally-mandated body to probe this report. This will give all parties a venue to present their evidence and answer all the attendant issues," Arroyo said, adding that the Ombudsman should conduct a swift probe into the matter.

Arroyo's name was dragged into the controversial importation of the 17 thoroughbreds, which arrived in the country last July, after the importer turned out to be Almeda, his close friend.

The importation of the race horses was covered by a Memorandum of Understanding signed last May between Almeda and the PSC to strengthen the country's equestrian program. The PSC has the power to recommend tax exemptions for national sports associations that want to import equipment, including horses.

But Arroyo said he had nothing to do with the MOU between the PSC and Almeda, adding that PSC chairman Eric Buhain himself has already cleared him of any involvement in the MOU, the actual importation, or the release of the horses to Almeda.

Buhain had admitted that in August, the PSC entered into a memorandum of understanding with Almeda for PSC's plan to create an equestrian program aimed at bringing the sport closer to the masses.

The MOU stated that the PSC would choose its horses from among the 17 brought by Almeda. The chosen horses will then be exempt from payment of taxes using the PSC's power to ask for such exemption.

Unfortunately, the deal fizzled out even before the PSC could pick it horses because, Buhain noted, the PSC ran short of funds.

Quoting Buhain, Arroyo said Almeda "fully paid the taxes and duties related to the importation of the horses."

Earlier reports said the importation of the 17 racehorses was included in the same July 22 request by the PSC for five equestrian training horses. All 22 horses got exemptions from customs taxes and duties.

But Buhain said the PSC had only approved the tax-free importation of the five horses which were endorsed by the Philippine Equestrian Federation. No other request for tax exemption was issued by the agency, he said.

TAMA NA SOBRA NA! NO WAY GMA! -KMU-
GLORIA BIGUIN SA 2004!
ANG MAGNANAKA
GLORIA RESIGN NOW
Corrupt RACE
3
1

OFF AND RUNNING... Protesters ride paper cutouts simulating the racehorses allegedly imported tax-free by Mikey Arroyo in a "corruption race" at the Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. in Manila, which in turn is the subject of another graft probe. AP

Everybody loves Noli, for now

By Christine O. Avendaño

EVERYONE wants Noli.

The opposition is eyeing administration Sen. Noli de Castro as its standard-bearer in the May 2004 polls.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, yesterday said the "pool" from which LDP and its coalition partners would pick the united opposition's standard bearer now include De Castro, who has consistently ranked high in surveys of presidential bets.

In a phone interview, Angara said coalition members submitted De Castro's name for consideration, but he has not talked to De Castro about it.

The opposition, which now includes the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), also considering businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

But De Castro is also being eyed as a possible running mate for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who declared over the weekend that she was running for president next year.

De Castro confirmed that he had received offers from "people around the President," and that "some members of the opposition" had been asking about his plans.

He told reporters yesterday that he has not yet decided on a course of action, since the positions that he was being asked to think about were "*di basta-basta* (not lightweight)."

But he was not surprised at the interest from both sides, on account of his performance in the surveys.

On the possibility that he might be pitted against Sen. Loren Legarda, De Castro was mum, apart from saying that he considered Legarda "a friend."

Both are renowned broadcasters of the ABS-CBN television network.

In an interview in Cebu last Sunday, Angara reiterated that the opposition would field only one standard bearer in 2004.

Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the LDP and NPC, which have agreed in principle to coalesce for the coming polls, still had to "formalize" the union.

"But we're getting there," Sotto told reporters.

Gringo throws hat into presidential ring

By Michael Lim Ubac

EXPECT more presidential wannabes to surface.

Yesterday opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan declared his intention to seek the presidency.

"I have cast my hat into the ring, and I will stand on my program and platform—which is the national recovery program. Ironically it is linking me (to the July 27 Oakwood mutiny)," Honasan told Senate reporters.

But the senator, accused of masterminding the failed mutiny, clarified that he will abide by the decision of the soon-to-be-formed united opposition.

In Cebu City, Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), said they will announce their standard-bearer for the 2004 elections this month.

"The Filipino voters will have a complete picture of the protagonist and their programs. Now the Filipinos will be able to choose which one is deserving of our vote as our leader in 2004," Angara said.

Among the names being considered are business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Noli de Castro and Aquilino Pimentel.

"That is the pool from which we will pick our standard-bearer and there is a very great chance, a very high chance that we will field only one opposition candidate," Angara said

The LDP and Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) are in the midst of talks to form a coalition against the administration.

"If the opposition unites, I will subordinate myself," Honasan stressed. "Despite our dimming chances because of the continuous assault on the Senate, and the travesty of justice with the proven biases of the DOJ, now the Ombudsman has joined the fray, we will continue to submit our name for consideration."

He hoped that the opposition parties would unite "under a common program with a common candidate."

Should the opposition fail to come up with a common candidate for president, Honasan said: "I will run as an independent."

But he pointed out that it was imperative for presidential aspirants outside of the ruling Lakas-CMD to unite and field a single ticket in 2004.

"To increase the chances of the opposition in 2004, all those who have articulated their desire to run for the presidency must subordinate themselves and their programs to a united opposition," said Honasan, alluding to Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Honasan, who remains an independent, yesterday formally invited Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Sen. Loren Legarda—who resigned last week as president and vice president for Visayas of the Lakas-CMD party, respectively—to join the ranks of the opposition.

"We would like to welcome Vice President Guingona and Senator Legarda to the ranks of the opposition and independents. They both generate respect from both camps—administration and opposition."

He noted that Guingona and Legarda used to be the president and vice president of Lakas-CMD.

"So if leading officials of your own party are deserting you and abandoning you then there is something seriously wrong with the administration," Angara said. *With Bernadette A. Parco and Kathy I. Navarro PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gov't to resume peace talks with NDF, MILF

By Cynthia D. Balana

IN A determined effort to ensure peace in the run-up to next year's elections, the government yesterday announced the resumption of peace talks with both communist rebels and Muslim secessionist groups.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia made the disclosure two days after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that she will stand for election in 2004.

De Venecia said a seven-man negotiating panel led by chief Philippine negotiator Silvestre Bello III will again face the 11-man team of the National Democratic Front (NDF) chaired by Luis Jalandoni and Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison.

He is also hopeful that the Malaysia-brokere d peace negotiations between the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front will start later this month in Kuala Lumpur under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

A delegation of congressmen led by de Venecia returned home last week after visiting Libya to seek the assurances of Libyan President Moammar Qaddafi that he would not support the secessionist bid of the MILF in Mindanao.

The delegation also proceeded to Norway where they confirmed the dates for the resumption of the peace talks with the NDF.

"I have completed my peace mission on two fronts," De Venecia said. "The separate peace talks with the MILF and the NDF, we have already brought to the final stage."

According to De Venecia, the Macapagal administration sees it fit to put an end to the nearly four decades of conflicts with communists and Muslim extremists.

He said the government has submitted a draft peace agreement and it was up to the NDF to present its own draft or revise the government's draft.

De Venecia said the peace talks with MILF has gained the support of both Qaddafi and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir, and US President George W. Bush.

"Muslim leaders who have not seen eye-to-eye with a succession of US presidents have set aside old grudges to find a permanent peace in Mindanao in consonance with US President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo," the Speaker said.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo mocked de Venecia's announcement since the resumption of talks came after the President's declaration of her candidacy for the 2004 presidential election.

Ocampo noted that two years ago, the President tagged them as "terrorists" and henceforth, suspended the talks. He admitted though that he was both "surprised" and "elated" when he heard of the latest development.

"Of course, there are doubts on the main motives of the Macapagal administration on the renewed call for peace negotiations with the NDF," Ocampo said.

Parusahan ang Rice Smuggling Mafia at Korupsyon sa gobyerno!
No to rice smugggling!
Political Party

RICE, the Filipinos' staple, trickles down from hand to hand during a protest by militant peasant groups against the smuggling of the commodity. JOAN BONDOC

Probe of officials' role in rice smuggle urged

By Norman Bordadora

SOME 13,500 sacks of rice from Vietnam worth an estimated P10.5 million were allegedly smuggled into the country last week by unscrupulous dealers using a Mindanao-based farmers cooperative as a front.

And, according to two urban poor militant groups, the smuggled rice is but the tip of the iceberg that could involve the Tindahan ni Gloria rolling stores of President Macapagal-Arroyo which are allegedly being used as outlets for the contraband rice.

The latest rice shipment arrived at the Cagayan de Oro City port last week, but instead of being delivered to the consignee, the Moro Native Land Farmers Cooperative, it was brought to the Manila North Harbor on Oct. 2, according to the urban poor party Anakpawis and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"Much of the rice is still at the North Harbor, but it is in the process of being delivered to the Bocaue InterCity warehouse in Bulacan," said Anakpawis spokesperson Sammy Malunes at a news conference. A certain Julia Dalisay reportedly facilitated the transfer of the rice.

Anakpawis urged Congress to conduct an inquiry into the continuing smuggling of rice using Mindanao ports.

"Let this highly questionable shipment of rice from Vietnam kick off the much warranted investigation of alleged unstoppable rice smuggling in the best interest of rice farmers and grains retailers in the country," Anakpawis vice president Carmen Deunida said.

"It seems the [smuggling] of rice is not a small-time occupation of people close to Malacañang. High officials of the Macapagal government are totally involved in this systematic well-knit and mafia-like smuggling operation," Malunes said.

Gloria leaves Tito in charge

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday left for Bali on a conciliatory note, formally designating her critic, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., as government caretaker during her three-day absence.

Guingona earlier resigned as president of the ruling party, over policy differences and the President's turnaround on her earlier decision not to run in 2004. Yesterday, he saw Ms Macapagal off and shook her hand before she boarded a chartered Philippine Airlines jet at 7:45 a.m.

Malacanang released the President's letter to Guingona, which read: "It is my privilege to designate you to act for and on my behalf during my visit to the Republic of Indonesia."

She expressed confidence that, "as always, this arrangement will ensure national stability ... and that you will always uphold the interest of the nation."

For good measure, the military was placed on red alert, starting at 7 a.m. yesterday until 7 a.m. Thursday. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio*

Reds threaten attacks anew during Bush visit

COMMUNIST rebels have threatened to "launch tactical offensives" during the visit of United States President George W. Bush later this month.

"We want to give Bush a big surprise," New People's Army spokesman Jeorge Madlos told a group of reporters on Sunday at a rebel camp in northern Mindanao. He did not elaborate, outside of "calling on the Filipino people to launch a widespread boycott."

Bush is expected in Manila on Oct. 18 for a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo ahead of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Thailand.

Military officials said they never discounted "symbolic" attacks by either communist rebels or the Abu Sayyaf, an al-Qaida-linked Muslim extremist group notorious for kidnappings and beheadings, but calculated that any incident during Bush's eight-hour stay was likely to be confined to the Mindanao area.

Madlos warned US troops in the south that they would be "fair game" for NPA guerrillas if they tried to gather military intelligence on the rebels.

Several hundred American soldiers are currently in Mindanao, mostly in Zamboanga City, for joint training exercises with their local counterparts.

Madlos said Bush's visit was an affirmation that Ms Macapagal "is a puppet of the US government," and that millions of dollars in development aid that America had earmarked for the south were meant to get the main Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), to surrender.

The government and the MILF are expected to resume stalled peace talks later this month. Negotiations with communist rebels, who have been waging a rebellion since the late 1960s, were stalled in 2001.

Last year, the US State Department tagged the CPP and its 10,000-strong armed wing, the NPA, a foreign terrorist organization and asked other governments to freeze their funds and assets.

Leash on protests

Police announced yesterday they would deploy at least 5,000 officers in addition to military crowd control units, to secure Malacañang and the House of Representatives complex in Quezon City where Bush is also expected.

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane said the Edsa Shrine, a favorite gathering place for protesters, would also be tightly guarded. And with Bush due in less than two weeks, security in airports and seaports have already been firmed up.

Ebdane said protests without permits would not be allowed, local governments would be prohibited from issuing rally permits, and foreign activists would be arrested and placed in the custody of the Bureau of Immigration if they joined illegal rallies.

"We don't want foreigners to join demonstrations because that would be an abuse of (our) hospitality," the PNP chief told reporters.

Left-wing groups staged a rally against Bush's visit yesterday near Malacanang. A separate group of about 50 young protesters was stopped by riot police from approaching the US Embassy. They carried placards calling the US president "a terrorist," and set portraits of Bush and Ms Macapagal on fire before dispersing peacefully.

Sweepers enlisted

Ebdane said the PNP was wary of a possible "tie-up" between foreign and local protesters that could lead to a repeat of the incident during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Manila in 1996.

"It has happened before and it may happen again," he explained. And although there was no report so far of any foreign group planning action, he added, the police would observe extreme caution.

Traffic personnel, motorcycle units and sweepers from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority would complement the police-military contingent, Ebdane said.

He stressed that protesters would be limited to "freedom parks" such as the Quezon Memorial Circle and Rizal Park, and when Bush addresses Congress, rallyists would not be allowed beyond the Sandiganbayan, less than one kilometer away.

All in all, he said: "We're satisfied with the security but we can still improve (on it)." *Christian V. Esguerra with a report from AP*

YOUNG Victims of toxic waste contamination at the former US bases at Clark field, Pampanga, and Subic Bay, Zambales joined their parents at a recent press conference calling on US President George W. Bush to address their plight during his state visit on Oct. 8.

JOAN BONDOC

Landbank exec arrested

A TOP official of the Land Bank of the Philippines was arrested at her Parañaque home yesterday for contempt after failing to deposit P73.5 million as ordered by a court as payment for a property given to farmers under the government's agrarian reform program.

Teresita Tengco, chief of the Landowners' Compensation Department of Landbank, was taken to the Western Police District headquarters based on an Oct. 4 warrant issued by Judge Ernesto Pagayatan.

Pagayatan earlier ordered Landbank to deposit P73.5 million in the account of the Suntay family as payment for the latter's 300-hectare property.

In a statement, however, Landbank president and CEO Margarito Teves yesterday assumed full responsibility for Landbank's decision.

"(I) will not allow any other employee to be arrested for upholding it," he said.

Teves, however, could not take the place of Tengco, who has to be taken to Occidental Mindoro, according to his lawyer Antonio Zulueta.

Teves argued that the P73.5-million award was not yet final and executory, noting that the amount was 12 times the original valuation of P6.5 million set by the Department of Agrarian Reform based on Presidential Decree No. 27.

It was the quasi-judicial body Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (Parad) that arrived at the P73.5- million figure, he said.

"I cannot, in conscience, give in to these demand and all the others that will inevitably follow. To do so shall burden the small farmers with debts so large they could never hope to recover and may eventually lead to the collapse of the agrarian reform program," Teves said.

He added that Landbank stands to lose P7 billion if it would give in to all pending demands before Parad—which number around 5,000—for just compensation by landowners. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Solons want to pry into GSIS finances

By Carlito Pablo and Jerome Aning

IN AN apparent bid to stop the "mismanagement" at the Government Service Insurance System, congressmen want the state pension fund subjected to their oversight committee.

This developed as government workers gear for a massive nationwide protest on Wednesday to decry alleged corruption in the GSIS and to demand the resignation of its president and general manager Winston Garcia.

The finances of the GSIS have been exempt for years from review by congressmen during the annual budget deliberations and thus enjoyed virtual immunity from scrutiny.

But this immunity from congressional oversight will soon end, Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur), chair of the House committee on appropriations, said.

Basis

"There is basis for the House to pry into the state of affairs at GSIS," Andaya said, adding that congressmen want the GSIS to answer clarificatory questions, at the very least.

These include investments being made by the GSIS amid complaints that it can no longer fund benefit programs for government employees.

Andaya explained that the GSIS was previously exempt from budget scrutiny since the pension agency does not receive state funding for its operations.

GSIS funds come mostly from the retirement and insurance premiums of government employees which are deducted from their salaries and augmented by the government's counterpart contributions. Thus, pension funds are deemed automatic appropriations.

4th biggest

Andaya noted that the GSIS is the fourth biggest annual recipient of appropriated funds after the Department of Education, Department of National Defense and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Andaya said that for 2004, the GSIS is programmed to receive P25.2 billion.

"If an agency with a P25 million annual budget has to go through the needle, then why should the biggest fund recipient in the budget be exempt from scrutiny," Andaya said.

Andaya noted that other government officials are made to explain every peso during budget deliberations at the House.

The Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees said government workers cannot use their hard-earned contributions when they need it most, while reports of massive graft and fund misuse by Garcia persist.

Courage president Ferdinand Gaite said government employees from the National Capital Region and nearby provinces will gather in front of the Manila Film Center at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City at around 10 a.m. on Oct. 8.

LOCSIN TREE
The University of the Philippines Film Center honored recently the late Philippine Free Press publisher Teodoro M. Locsin Sr. with a tree planted in his memory at its Perfume Garden, Diliman, Quezon City. The tree-planting was part of the Film Center's celebration of the 2003 Unesco Paris Conference. Members of the Locsin family and guests gather round the tree, among them, Rosario Locsin, Ramon Locsin, Corito Llamas, Virginia R. Moreno, Jose "Pitoy" Moreno and Tomas del Castillo.

Re-sculpt Your Figure Safely

Plasti-Dermi Treatment
-- The Non-Surgical Liposuction Technology from Marie-France

The Plasti-Dermi Treatment (PDT) is Marie-France's "non-surgical liposuction" method to remove excess fat without any risk or discomfort to your health or your body.

The PDT works by detaching trapped fat cells within your body's tissues. It also improves blood circulation and lymphatic drainage within your cellulite-problem areas. It can even preserve your skin's elasticity to prevent it from sagging after weight-loss for an overall slimmer, smoother look. All these with no skin penetration, internal harm, and other problems that go with fat-reduction surgery.

Re-sculpt your body with Marie-France's real and painless alternative to liposuction. Try the Plasti-Dermi Treatment now!

Enroll now and get 2 FREE PLASTI-DERMI TREATMENTS from October 6-11, 2003 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4144, Series of 2003

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International

MAKATI 816-1262 815-2052
ORTIGAS 687-1216 687-1218
TIMOG 372-6635 372-6636
BINONDO 242-2199 243-8230
ALABANG 809-9619 850-4574
SHAW 534-5898 534-5877
CONGRESSIONAL 920-8021 920-8047
PAMPANGA 961-2981/91 860-6921/22
CEBU 233-7637 233-7639

NOW OPEN Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm · Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Judges go on mass …

From page A1

gional trial court judges; the Philippine Trial Judges League, which is made up of municipal judges; and the Metropolitan and City Judges Association of the Philippines (Metrocjap).

Members of the Philippine Confederation of Court Employees Association (PCEA) also joined them in accusing some senators of deliberately blocking the bill's passage.

The judges were lobbying for the passage of the bill, authored by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, that would increase their allowances by 25 percent over four years. The senators were expected to decide on the bill last night.

They also demanded an increase in the judiciary's share of the national budget. They noted that in the proposed P865-billion national budget for 2004, the judiciary got only P7.8 billion or a measly 0.9 percent.

The amount, they said, was is even smaller than allocations given to some agencies in the executive department.

"The judiciary, one of the three branches of government, has been continuously ignored and given very little attention in the allocation of government resources," the judges and court employees said in a statement.

Last night, Velasco and 75 trial judges walked out of the Senate hall to demonstrate their disgust over the objections of opposition Sen. John Osmeña to the bill.

Osmeña effectively blocked its passage by raising the issue of possible misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF).

After a lengthy and heated debate on the floor between Osmeña and Pangilinan, the plenary decided to defer voting on the issue.

Pangilinan vowed to push for the passage of the bill today, saying, "I think that this will not deter me from pushing for the passage of the measure. I believe it is just a matter of time, and that obviously based on the facts, we are moving toward the right direction."

Osmeña's main objection was that the JDF had not been administered correctly, he said. "But the Commission on Audit (COA) has explained that this was not the case. Although initial findings (said) that there was a need for a reconciliation of bank records, the same has been done."

Osmeña charged back, saying the justices used the JDF allegedly to repair their vacation houses in Baguio City. "There is a COA report on this," he said.

He accused the high court of misusing some P3 billion of the fund.

Cebu

In Cebu, more than 200 court hearings were suspended yesterday when trial court judges and personnel joined the nationwide protest.

Executive Judge Pampio Abarintos led the 19 RTC judges in staging the protest action yesterday morning after the flag raising ceremony at the Palace of Justice grounds in Cebu City. They brought out their placards and delivered speeches, seeking the immediate passage of the Pangilinan bill.

They were joined by seven judges of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC).

Abarintos said most of the judges filed leaves of absence yesterday although they stayed in their *salas*.

He said the RTC, especially the office of the clerk of court, accepted civil and criminal cases that were filed yesterday. But the usual activities, such as hearings, applications and issuance of warrants of arrest, approval of the bail bond and the order of release of the accused were suspended.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Cebu City and provincial chapters also expressed support for the cause of the judges and vowed to pass a resolution urging the immediate passage of the bill.

Instead of taking their mass leave like the rest of their colleagues, regional and municipal trial court judges in Baguio City proceeded on Monday with their scheduled hearings "to prove that the judiciary is still No. 1 in terms of public service."

Judge Edilberto Claravall, Baguio deputy executive judge, said people needed to see the judiciary preserving its public trust, without compromising the resolve of the PJA and some 26,000 court employees to obtain better budgetary allocations from Congress.

With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

So where is Ping Lacson?

From page A1

P260 million in campaign contributions to his wife.

The Senate through Senate President Franklin Drilon was informed that Lacson was not attending yesterday's session because he had an "out-of-town engagement."

An official of the Department of Justice said authorities were prepared "for any eventuality" should the Supreme Court rule with finality that Lacson be charged in connection with the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"We are ready to implement whatever the Supreme Court's judgment will be. The important thing is to uphold the majesty of the law," Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said.

Non-bailable

Calida made the statement as rumors spread that the Supreme Court would hand down the ruling today. If the the high court decides to revive the charges, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court will issue the arrest warrant against Lacson, according to Calida.

"(Multiple) murder is a non-bailable offense, so the judge will have to issue the arrest warrant," the justice undersecretary said.

When the case was filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, the judge dismissed it. A petition to reopen the case was filed before the Supreme Court, which on April 2 ordered the reopening of the case, including the multiple murder case against Lacson.

The high court directed the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 to "forthwith proceed with Criminal Cases 01-101101 to 01-101112 with deliberate dispatch."

Lacson asked the Supreme Court to reverse its decision by filing a motion for reconsideration.

Violent clash

The source from Lacson's camp warned of a violent clash should authorities serve an arrest warrant on the senator.

The source said Lacson, who served as the chief of the PNP under the Estrada administration, was being protected by his loyal followers in the PNP.

"I don't know how they will go about it just in case a warrant is issued," the police officer said. "But it might be bloody. The senator won't surrender just like that."

Calida said the authorities were prepared to prevent a repeat of the violent protests that preceded the arrest of former President Joseph Estrada in April 2001.

Estrada's supporters fought with the police in North Greenhills, San Juan, when the authorities tried to arrest the deposed President. Estrada surrendered after negotiations but his supporters occupied Edsa Shrine. This eventually led to the so-called Edsa III uprising.

"As I've said, our state of preparedness is such that we are taking measures to ensure that whatever the court issues is implemented," Calida said.

Asked what the government would do if Lacson sought sanctuary in the Senate, Calida said: "It's hard for us to telegraph our punches or say what we'll do. It depends on the decision of the Supreme Court."

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was cautious when asked about preparations for the possible arrest of Lacson and other suspects.

"The question is futuristic," he told reporters. "We have to wait for developments. We will act accordingly depending on the decision of the Supreme Court and the lower court."

Two reasons

Sources in Lacson's camp said the senator had been advised to "make himself scarce" starting yesterday for two reasons.

The first one was that friends of the senator in the Macapagal administration had received reports of threats on his life apparently from people not keen about Lacson's expected delivery of Chapter III of his exposé against Arroyo, the sources said.

Lacson's friends, the sources said, had also advised him that he would be placed under surveillance because the Supreme Court was set to rule today on the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case. A warrant of arrest for Lacson is reportedly going to be issued immediately and enforced, according to the sources.

But if no warrant was issued today, the sources said Lacson would attend Wednesday's session to deliver the speech.

Besides Lacson and Zubia, those implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng case were then Chief Superintendents Jewel F. Canson and Supt. Romeo M. Acop; Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar O. Mancao II and Zorobabel S. Laureles; Superintendents Glenn Dumlao and Almario A. Hilario; Chief Inspectors Erwin T. Villacorte and Gil L. Meneses; Senior Inspectors Rolando Anduyan and Joselito T. Esquivel;

Inspectors Ricardo G. Dandan and Ceasar Tannagan; Senior Police Officers 4 Vicente P. Arnado, Roberto T. Langcauon, Angelito N. Caisip and Antonio Frias; Senior Police Officers 3 Cicero S. Bacolod, Willy Nuas and Juanito B. Manaois;

Senior Police Officers 2 Virgilio V. Paragas, Rolando R. Jimenez, Cecilio T. Morito and Reynaldo C. Las Piñas; Senior Police Officers 1 Wilfredo G. Cuartero and Roberto O. Agbalog; PO3 Osmundo B. Cariño; Police Officers 2 Norberto Lasaga, Leonardo Gloria and Alejandro G. Liwanag, and civilian agents Elmer Ferrer and Romy Cruz.

Zubia's most recent brush with the law came when he and two other suspects, Hilario and Meneses, allegedly provided protection to Eugenio Mahusay Jr., Lacson's former star witness against the First Gentleman. The three have since gone missing.

Zubia, a former chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, is assigned to the PNP Headquarters Support Service, considered the freezer for officers who have fallen out of favor with the powers that be.

Mancao and Aquino have been hiding in the United States since 2001. Earlier this year, they were joined by Dumlao, the source said.

Before he flew to the United States, Dumlao executed an affidavit retracting his statements that implicated Lacson's former men in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case, according to the source. Dumlao was supposed to be the government's star witness.

A source from the camp of Arno Sanidad, the private prosecutor for the Kuratong victims, said Canson had been missing since February and could be hiding in the United States.

Sr. Christine Tan: She had given her all

From page A1

the slums. All her personal belongings could be packed in a tiny suitcase.

Said the poor of her: "*Siya ay bukas-palad para sa mga mahihirap.* Strict *siya pero mababa ang kalooban. Higit sa lahat*, disciplinarian. (She is generous with the poor. She is strict but humble. Most of all, she is a disciplinarian)," said Auring who works with the Alay Kapwa housing project.

"*Matigas ang paninindigan niya sa lahat ng uri ng katiwalian* (She stands firm in fighting all forms of anomalies)," said Benny, a metal craftsman

Nene, a candle maker, described her: "*Isang* disciplinarian *pero malaki ang puso sa pagtulong, mapang-unawa at mapagkilos. Mahigpit din siya sa mga mali namin. Hindi* sorry *lang, pero kailangan ipakita mo sa kanya na hindi mauulit ang pagkakamali. Isa siyang ina, kaibigan na mapagmahal* (She's a disciplinarian, but big-hearted when helping the poor, understanding and always ready to act. She's strict when we make mistakes. Saying sorry is not enough, you have to show her you're not going to repeat the mistakes. She's like a mother, a loving friend)."

"*Siya ay isang madre na gala, lakad ng lakad. Prangka siya, hindi paliguy-ligoy sa pananalita. Matulungin. Tinuruan niya kaming tumayo sa sariling paghihirap* (She's a nun who is always on the go. She's frank, does not mince words. Helpful. She taught us how to stand on our own through hard work)," said Norma, a candy maker.

Emmy, another candy maker said: "*Napakabait, matulungin, parang ina na naghahanap ng makakain ng kanyang pamilya. Mula nang tumira siya sa Leveriza, nabago ang paligid* (A very good person, helpful, like a mother in search of food for her family. Since she started living in Leveriza, many things have changed)."

"*Tilan lang ang pananalita niya pero makahulugan. Kusa siyang tumutulong sa mga nangangailangan. Meron siyang isang salita. Suplada siyang tingnan, pero bukal ang kanyang kalooban, lalo na sa mga nangangailangan* (She's a woman of few words, but her words are meaningful. She helps those who are in need. She honors her word. She may look unapproachable but actually her heart is full of goodness for those in need)," said Lourdes, a soap maker.

Volet, a church worker said: "For many, many people, she is a saint."

Religious leader

In 1970, Sister Christine became the first Filipino head of the Philippine Province of the Religious of the Good Shepherd, a congregation founded in France more than 100 years ago. She headed the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Women in the Philippines for some time during the martial law years and became known for her militancy and stand against totalitarian rule.

In the late 1970s, she opted to live among the poor of Malate. She was appointed member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution. In 1998, she became a member of the board of directors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office. In 2000, she made newspaper headlines when she questioned irregular fund disbursements at the PCSO.

Her close friend, former President Corazon Aquino, said of her: "She possessed the qualities I was looking for—integrity, patriotism, selflessness and dedication. I think Sister Christine is a great woman. She has clearly shown by example how we should love God and our neighbor."

Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, former head of the Constitutional Commission and one-time chief of the PCSO, said: "She saw to it that the funds went to the truly poor."

Sister Christine came from a family of means. Poverty as practiced in the convent was not enough for her, so she chose to live literally among the poor.

She was the fifth of seven children of Judge Bienvenido Tan and Salome Limgenco. Her siblings are Consuelo, Bienvenido (former ambassador to Germany), Teresita Suarez, Caridad Manga, Leticia Sevilla and Angeles Alora.

She graduated from St. Scholastica's College where she majored in mathematics. In 1954, she joined religious life and left for the US for her three-year novitiate.

Like a candle

"As a nun," she once said, "one of the greatest sacrifices I had to make was giving up having children of my own, not a husband."

Chastity, she explained, meant giving up one's life and using it for others, "like a candle that burns itself out."

The vow of poverty, she stressed, was also about time. "Every minute must be used well and deliberately. It's not about having six or seven pins. It's being for the other, rather than for the ego. God must consume me so much that I just have to consume others. That is religious life. When it consumes, it radiates."

She never thought of her lifestyle as severe. Sleeping on the hard floor was good for the back, she said.

The pollution was making them sick, she said, "but we're comfortable. What's bad is the drunkenness of the men here."

She admired the women. "It's the women who are strong. At first, we tried to help everybody, but we created parasites. The hardworking we help; the lazy are left to die, ignored completely."

Her fellow RGS nuns paid her tribute for breaking ground during "the angry '70s" and for "bringing new wineskins for new wine." RGS head Sr. Carmelita Cruz said: "She always stressed that we should be with the poor. That is her legacy."

She was controversial, but she was much loved. She loved much in return.

Her friends came from all walks of life. She enjoyed good movies, books and breakfasts-for-two with special friends.

She lavished the children of the slums with love. She not only sent them to school on scholarships, she personally tutored them in the afternoon. It was not work for her, she enjoyed it.

Several days before she died, she was still meeting with Alay Kapwa leaders. When she felt the end was near she asked to see her lay friends for brief moments.

But it is in prayer that she found the meaning of everything. Uniting with God in silence, she said, gave her much joy while enduring her illness.

"In prayer," she confided, "when you go deep into the silence, you actually feel God. You and God are merged as one. In that utter stillness, you could feel the light, and the fire and the tight embrace, and the tenderness enfolding you. Then you become strong like a bull, you go straight like an arrow."

Encountering God is a passionate experience, she said. "Violent but also tender. We have to be like God to the people."

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT FOR ROOFING ?

- clay roof tiles
- metal roof sheets
- asphalt shingles
- polycarbonate sheets

From building shells, to home interiors, to almost every imaginable construction material you may need. PHILCONSTRUCT 2003 has got everything covered.

Doors & Windows
- Slimmest & aesthetically appealing casement designs
- High impact strength & high resistance to wealthy
- Secure & safe
- Easy maintenance

Park & Playground Equipment
- Manufactured according to international safety standards
- State of the art design to fit any environment
- Buyer's premium choice!

Gate Valve
- Design to provide tight shut off & long life sealing in service areas
- Used in water utility corporations nationwide
- Stress-tested to ensure maximum durability

Electrical
- Complete Electric Power & Lighting System
- Varied distribution devices
- Reliable protection devices
- Elegant terminals for power supply & lighting

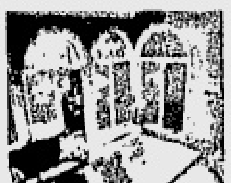
PHILCONSTRUCT 2003 TO BE HELD ON NOV. 13 TO 16, 10 A.M. TO 7 P.M., WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA.
For inquiries, contact L.A. Ducut & Company, Inc., Tel (632) 873-8202 or 9047 or 8876 or 471-4336 / Cel (0917) 322-1019, (0927) 321-8150 / Email: philconstruct@laducut.com / website www.philconstruct.com.ph

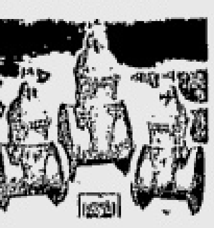
PHILCONSTRUCT 2003
Innovations. Solutions. Opportunities

organized by PCA
managed by L.A. Ducut and Company, Inc.

In cooperation with: [illegible]

sponsored by: CEMEX MARINE, BOYSEN, DAVIES, LAFARGE CEMENT





Ople raps Israel for raid in Syria

By Gerald G.Lacuarta

WHILE the United States appeared to approve of the Israeli attack on a terrorist camp deep inside Syria on Sunday, the Philippines denounced Israel for what Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople described as an "act of violence."

Ople, in a statement from Bali, Indonesia, on the eve of the 9th summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), said: "Israel's attack against Syria was unnecessary, unfortunate and certainly difficult to justify.

"We hope that Israel will refrain from similar actions in the future. These acts of violence would only make the search for peace in the Middle East even more complicated," he added.

The Washington Post reported that US President George W. Bush came close to endorsing the attack when he telephoned Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after the air strike.

A Washington official was quoted as saying that Bush called Sharon after the attack "mainly to express his condolences for the terrorist attack in Haifa" by a Palestinian female suicide bomber in which as many as 19 Israelis were killed.

The Bush administration has accused Syria of building chemical and biological weapons and allowing Palestinian militant groups to organize, raise funds and plot attacks from Syrian bases.

An official State Department statement "urged all sides to exercise restraint and to keep in mind the consequences of their actions."

But Ople said the attack by Israel against Syria was "deeply regrettable." He expressed the hope that there would be no escalation of violence as a result of this attack.

"There has been an uneasy calm between Syria and Israel and for twenty years there has been no such attack against Syria. It is deeply regrettable that Israel had taken the decision to launch this attack," he said.

The Israeli bombing was the first in the heart of Syria since the Middle East War in 1973.

Ople said he can understand the outrage that Syria and other countries must feel over the attack.

"But we would like to appeal to Syria not to do anything that might start a new cycle of cross-border violence in the Middle East," he said.

Ople called on Syria and Israel to resolve the incident peacefully and, if necessary, with the help of international institutions.

Israeli warplanes attacked a Palestinian "terrorist training base" inside Syria in response to Saturday's suicide attack in the northern port city of Haifa for which the militant Islamic Jihad claimed credit.

The Israeli army said the Syrian government supports terrorism and gives "cover in its territory and capital to the terror organizations that act against Israeli citizens."

"The accusations against Syria are serious. No state should harbor terrorists," Ople said.

The Syrian government has repeatedly said it does not allow terrorists to use its territory, but Ople said "perhaps Syria should do more in terms of fighting international terrorism to give emphasis to its official position."

DOH wants $2B for AIDS study

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Health is seeking $2 billion in aid from the United States to finance its research on the potential of the virgin coconut oil as a cure for the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or AIDS.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday asked Malacañang to include the $2 billion in the financial aid package the Philippine government will be asking from US President George W. Bush during his state visit this month.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Dayrit said the $2 billion would be used to fund research on the anti-AIDS potential of virgin coconut oil as well as other research on AIDS in the Philippines.

The anti-viral properties of the virgin coconut oil was demonstrated in 1999 by Dayrit's father, Dr. Conrado Dayrit, among HIV-infected patients at the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.

In the 1980s, the elder Dayrit made the first clinical study on coconut oil, which led to the breakthrough discovery that medium-chain fatty acids (MCFA) which would lead to AIDS—specifically lauric and capric—were effective in killing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in lab cultures.

The use of a chemical called monoglyceride of lauric acid—which is similar to coconut oil—as an agent against AIDS has already been patented in the US, Dayrit told the President.

"It is of this very urgent nature that our country must move fast in order to complete our studies on the use of virgin coconut oil so as to benefit from the patent protection. This will also benefit our coconut industry," he said.

POOR DEER. A Philippine deer missing its right front leg is tied to the back of a pickup that was following President Macapagal-Arroyo's convoy in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, recently. When questioned, the pickup driver denied the deer was his. It is incidents like this that Akfi seeks to prevent.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Saving dogs, other animals high on UK group's agenda

By Marlet D. Salazar

AN ANIMAL rights group based in the United Kingdom is banking on "unconfirmed reports" that dog meat is not fit for human consumption to boost its mission of eradicating the illegal dog meat trade in the Philippines.

According to Luis Buenaflor Jr., senior researcher of the Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc. (Akfi), the reports point to a "certain bacteria" in dog meat that is harmful to humans. He said a study is now being undertaken to support this claim.

Validation of the claim could make things easier for Akfi, which has been working quietly against cruelty to animals in the country. Initially the group's main focus was the dog meat trade, but soon enough they were running into other problems that were just as urgent. Now Akfi, a non-profit, nonstock organization, is also lobbying for legislation, or amendments to existing laws, on animal welfare as a whole.

The foundation is affiliated with the International Wildlife Coalition Trust (IWCT), which is likewise based in the UK, and which has been doing research and documentation on "dog issues" in the Philippines for 10 years now. In fact, Akfi was organized by Charles Wartenberg, a director of IWCT, who regularly visits the country to oversee ongoing programs.

Akfi has helped file charges against illegal dog traders in Pampanga, Bontoc, Benguet, and even Navotas. Rescued dogs are brought to the Manila dog pound.

Another recent victory for Akfi was when Wartenberg went to Albuquerque, Bohol, to ask the owner of a python to stop feeding the reptile live puppies. This undertaking was broadcast nationwide on television and was, for days, the subject of discussion among animal welfare advocates and activists.

Buenaflor said Sofronio Sulitay, the python owner, was very cooperative. "He did not realize he was violating R.A. 8485 (the Animal Welfare Act of 1998)," Buenaflor said. After convincing Sulitay to change the python's diet, Wartenberg also gave him helpful advice regarding the care of his pet, and asked the London Zoo to send information on the prescribed size of a reptile's cage.

SLIMMERS WORLD

SAVE up to P23,200

BURN FAT, BUILD MUSCLE FAST!

ONLY P35 PER DAY on Full Fitness Programmes

NO MONTHLY DUES. NO JOINING FEES.

HOTLINES: 887-3533 / 09178984744
SKIN HOTLINES: 887-1331 / 09164099312

FITNESS & BODY
Burn up to 1,000 calories.

FACE & COSMETIC CENTERS
Lose your wrinkles in 30 minutes with BOTOX.
- Ultrapeel
- Restylane
- Facial
- Body Scrub
- Laser Acne Treatment
- Laser Hair Removal
- Body Whitening
- Nutracell-Face
- Wart Removal

FREE BLEACHING CAPSULES for all skin programme enrollees today
FREE CONSULTATION with our In-House Dermatologist

BIO DYNAMICS
Lose 10 lbs in 6 weeks with a money-back guarantee.
- Body Former
- Advanced Cellulite Technology
- Swedish Massage
- Milk Bath
- Hotmasque
- Reflexology
- Nutrition
- Personal Training

CALL US: WEBSITE: www.slimmersworld.com.ph / EMAIL: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	H.V. DELA COSTA	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	SM MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC
Gemma/Aster 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote Alabang Rd 809-0396	Thelma/Lhet 3/F Regina Garden II 242-1312	Sherry/Bheng 6/F Panorama Bldg. Rizal Ave 365-7653	Mabs/Riva Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254	Jacqui 27/F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505	Carinna 27F Trafalgar Plaza Salcedo Village 814-0138	Jaja/Ira G/F Zeta Bldg Salcedo St 893-8934	Daisy/Tin 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico Manila 536-0819	Sheila/Lani 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869	Butchy/Eleanor 1032 Arnaiz Ave cor. Hernandez St 887-1335	JC/Kaye Restaurant Ave Marcos Hi-way 681-5333	Ruth/Mitch 2/F Annex Bldg Quezon City 929-5429	Beth 2/F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514

SKIN CLINIC HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09166128883 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 MALATE 5259891/09177352081 MEGAMALL 6377543/09166803967 PASAY ROAD 8873530/09166320785 PASIG 6473814/09162011885

GMA travels light with lean party

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BALI, Indonesia (via PLDT)—For the third time in a row at an Asean Summit, President Macapagal-Arroyo chose to travel light and did not bring along First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Her controversial husband is reportedly in Dubai helping out a group of overseas Filipino workers.

Faced with a hectic three-day work schedule, the President brought along a lean 32-man delegation that included just four Cabinet officials—Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Other officials who arrived with Ms Macapagal in this island paradise at 12:15 p.m. on board a chartered Philippine Airlines flight were presidential assistants Paul Dominguez and Jesus Dureza, and Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable Jr., who was recently named chief peace negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

At last year's Asean Summit in Cambodia, Ms Macapagal explained that she did not bring the First Gentleman along because presidential spouses did not have much to do at such conferences.

After a three-and-a-half-hour flight from Manila, Ms Macapagal drove straight to the Bali Hilton Hotel to deliver a speech before the Asean Business and Investment Summit.

She and her party are billeted at the Hotel Sheraton Laguna Nusa Dua, one of the best hotels that Bali has to offer. Just a stone's throw away from the beach, the hotel is surrounded by a beautiful man-made lagoon. The Philippine media is billeted at the nearby Nusa Dua Beach Hotel.

The President's hotel is minutes away from the Bali International Convention Center, site of this year's summit.

After her speech at the Bali Hilton Hotel, Ms Macapagal met with her official party and Filipino businessmen.

EPA/DENNIS SABANGAN

INDONESIAN policemen stand in front of giant billboards of Asean leaders (from left) Burmese Prime Minister Gen. Khin Nyunt, Philippine President Macapagal and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong outside the Sheraton Convention Center in Bali.

She hardly had enough time to rest before her first official meeting—a two-hour discussion with the heads of state of Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia on the progress of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area.

Then Ms Macapagal was off to a two-hour working dinner at 8 p.m. hosted by Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri at the convention center for the 10 Asean heads of state.

Her second day in Bali starts at 8:25 a.m. for the Asean Summit. She will also hold bilateral meetings with Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chinese Premier We Jiabao.

Round-the-clock meetings are scheduled the whole day Wednesday.

Abus eyed in abduction of 6 workers in Borneo

From page A1

less military operations in its strongholds.

Using speedboats, Abu Sayyaf militants made lightning strikes on resorts on two Malaysian islands, seizing dozens of hostages, including Western tourists, and taking them to Western Mindanao. The hostages were eventually released after the payment of millions of dollars in ransom.

The United States, Australia and other countries renewed travel warnings earlier this year for Sabah, saying Abu Sayyaf bandits and other terrorists continue to pose a serious threat in the state.

10 armed men

In Sunday's attack, Norian said a witness described seeing 10 men armed with modern weapons, two or three of them in camouflage gear, raid the resort and speed away in a boat with their victims.

A Malaysian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the kidnappers armed with machine guns, Armalite rifles and pistols rode on a 75-horsepower boat.

"Our speculation is that they want ransom but we have not received any demands for the release of these six workers," Norian told a news conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The resort, a 15-bed facility located at the mouth of a river, opened about six months ago. Although often used to host school camps, the resort was empty of guests at the time of the attack.

Malaysian military and police forces began searching waterways and the hundreds of tiny jungle-clad islands in the area, including those forming an archipelago reaching into southern Philippines.

Norian said the task was daunting because the terrain offered innumerable hiding places.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said local commanders near the Malaysian border had been alerted should the captives be taken to Mindanao.

"We have been alerted by (the AFP) Southern Command, and I have also coordinated with our troops in Mapun Island and Taganak Island in Tawi-Tawi and we have put more troops in the coastal areas of Tawi-Tawi," said Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, 3rd Marine Brigade commander.

Philippine and Malaysian military forces yesterday began a nine-day maritime and antiterrorism training exercise off Zamboanga City.

Commodore George Uy said he had asked his counterpart in the Royal Malaysian Navy how his naval forces in Western Mindanao could provide assistance in tracking down the kidnappers while the training exercise was going on.

Norian said Indonesia military forces were also cooperating in the air and sea search.

The Borneo Paradise Eco-Farm Resort lies near the town of Lahad Datu, 300 km southeast of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital.

A resort worker reached by telephone refused to comment on the kidnapping.

Immigrants

Norian said police were investigating whether the captives were illegal immigrants to Malaysia. Hundreds of thousands of mostly poor Indonesians and Filipinos cross into Sabah illegally looking for work.

Since the Abu Sayyaf raids in 2000, Malaysia and the Philippines have beefed up security along their border.

Norian said he had ruled out the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf because the kidnappers targeted foreign workers, not foreign tourists.

Even so, Abu Sayyaf bandits have been known to kidnap even ordinary people. Recently, however, the notorious bandits have laid low in the face of a more vigorous hunt by Philippine troops trained by US forces.

Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's global piracy watch center based in Kuala Lumpur, said pirates were generally not active in Sabah because the military bolstered security in Malaysian waters following the resort abductions three years ago.

The few piracy cases reported in Sabah in recent years were robberies at sea involving suspects from Indonesia or the Philippines, Choong said. *Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters, TJ Burgonio in Manila; and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA urges Asean unity after failed WTO talks

From page A1

Third World countries on how international trade should be conducted," Ms Macapagal said in her speech before the first Asean Business and Investment Summit.

"Asean should unite ... for our collective interest with the WTO and ensure a just and fair global trading system," she told businessmen gathered at the Bali Hilton Hotel.

Ms Macapagal said she and fellow Asean leaders would tackle "biased" WTO trade policies during their summit which formally starts today.

"While the WTO promised much in helping bridge the economic divide through a liberalized trading environment, it has only managed to tarry so painfully on delivery," she said.

"Cancun was a wake-up call for all nations to refocus on the stark relationship between world poverty and world trade."

In her speech, Ms Macapagal also called for the hastening of Asean economic integration through the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area.

She said the creation of the growth area, first proposed by Manila in 1994, appeared ready to take off. She cited "confidence-building initiatives,'" such as the opening of air and sea passenger and cargo services between Davao and Manado; between Zamboanga, Tawi-Tawi, Sabah and Sandakan; and between Zamboanga, Tawi-Tawi and Tawau.

Ms Macapagal said the Philippines would hold negotiations with Malaysia and Indonesia for port-to-port arrangements regarding customs, immigration, quarantine and security. These arrangements would be between Zamboanga and Sandakan, General Santos City and Bitung, and Davao and Manado.

Loose grouping

Asean—which comprises Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—remains a loose grouping that ranges from nations fully embracing capitalism to impoverished communist regimes.

The road toward Asean's aspirations of Europe-style economic integration is likely to be difficult.

Asean has tried with limited success for more than a decade to reduce tariffs among members, and the grouping has been criticized as all talk and little action.

Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong said this year's summit would be more than just "old wine in a new bottle."

The group has drafted a timeline for implementing an Asean Economic Community, proposed at last year's summit and to be created by 2020.

A draft summit statement promises to standardize customs procedures by 2004. By 2005, members would start to break down non-tariff trade barriers and to open up sensitive trade sectors. Asean members would banish visa requirements for residents of fellow Asean countries by 2005.

Asean wants to keep foreign investment from getting redirected to other sources of cheap labor—especially China to the north and India to the west—partly by setting up a network of standardized free-trade zones across Southeast Asia.

The hope is that while labor costs rise in well-performing economies, such as Malaysia and Thailand, investors can be enticed into moving production to less-developed Asean countries rather than to China.

At the same time, Asean is moving toward its own free-trade agreements with nearby competitors, like China and India. The summit agenda includes side deals with China, Japan and India, involving both trade and security issues, such as fighting terrorism.

This year's summit statement is to be called the Bali Concord II. The first concord was penned at Asean's first summit in 1976, also held in Bali.

Leaders decided to return to the tropical island just ahead of the anniversary of last year's nightclub bombings on Oct. 12 which killed 202 people—mostly foreigners—as a show of support for Indonesia's efforts to crack down on the Islamic militants blamed for the attack.

Security at conference venue, Bali's Nusa Dua resort, included patrols of armored cars and troops in full combat gear. Marine frogmen with pistols strapped to their thighs rode on rubber dinghies and jet skis alongside the beach front hotels catering to European and Asian tourists.

With AP reports

PABX / HIGH COST
THE FIRST IN THE PHILIPPINES' 5 LINE PHONE
5 line phone • Intercom • Call Transfer • Call pick-up • Built-in music on hold • 10 mem. buttons • 1 year warranty •
LINE SELECTOR FOR AS LOW AS ₱2,000
ENJOY ITS ADVANTAGE:
- KNOW WHEN LINE IS BUSY OR
- KNOW AVAILABLE LINE.
CALL FOR FREE DEMO NOW!
ALSO AVAILABLE: CCTV, INTERCOM, 2-WAY RADIO, ORDINARY PHONE
EverTel Philippines, Corp.
For inquiries pls. call: 7158114, 7158122, 7158151 OR TEXT US @ 0917 4217596 AND WE WILL CALL YOU

"MUG"-NEGOSYO!
INITIAL CAPITAL - P5,500.00 MATERIALS + WORKSHOP
ATTN: ALL USERS OF INKJET PRINTERS !!! TURN YOUR PRINTERS INTO INSTANT "MONEY-EARNING" MACHINES!!!
50% DISCOUNT ENROLL NOW!
PHOTO-IMAGE TRANSFER WORKSHOP
"Use SCOPA Inkjet Decal Papers" Exclusively Distributed by: C.B.R. Corp.
See Our Display at: YoYo Balloons 10 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Hts., Q.C.
FOR RESERVATION/CONFIRMATION, CALL
426-2973 • 920-1440 • 433-2500
Cell: 0917-8194214 ; 0917-5274964 ; 0917-9873136
PLACE: YoYo BALLOONS SHOP 10-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Hts. Quezon City near Ateneo, Katipunan
SCHEDULE: [SUN., MON., WED. & SAT.] 9:30 - 11:30 AM - with Free Snack
SPONSOR: YoYo Balloons
VALID UNTIL 29 OCT. 2003
CERTIFICATE awarded at end of workshop [This AD Appears Every Tuesday]
WE ALSO CONDUCT BALLOON DECOR WORKSHOP!

Arnold Schwarzenegger muscles past sex charges

From page A1

as he began the last stretch of his quest for the California governor's mansion on Monday.

Schwarzenegger concluded a four-day bus tour on Sunday outside the capital, Sacramento, after a sometimes rowdy barnstorming trek across the state.

Thousands of supporters and a few hecklers gathered on the lawn of the Capitol building, where the actor gave his stock campaign speech, holding up a broom at one point and promising to "sweep out Gray Davis."

Schwarzenegger closed his rally by exiting from the stage into the Capitol as though he already had the run of the place.

Protesters carried signs like "Arnold, release the Hitler tapes," a reference to out takes from the movie "Pumping Iron" in which he apparently expressed admiration for Hitler, and "Arnold, are your daughters pieces of meat?"

SCHWARZENEGGER

One supporter made light of the groping charges with the placard: "Gray groped our ASSets."

Governor Davis charged into the final stage of the wild recall battle demanding that Schwarzenegger, his chief rival for the state's top job in Tuesday's recall election, explain in detail what was behind recent sexual harassment allegations.

At least 15 women have alleged Schwarzenegger groped or harassed them, as recently as 2000, with four fresh allegations emerging on Saturday, the Los Angeles Times reported.

What began as a Republican-led protest vote over Davis' handling of the state's ailing economy has become a referendum on the bodybuilder turned Hollywood star, his treatment of women and his past, qualified praise for Adolf Hitler.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, expressed outrage and puzzlement at the late barrage of sexual misconduct charges.

"No one ever came to me in my life and said to me when I did anything, 'I don't want you to do that, and you went over the line.' Now all of a sudden, isn't it odd ... (that) all of these women want to have an apology?" he said.

Collette Brooks, who has said Schwarzenegger grabbed her from behind when she was an intern at CNN in 1982, said she had not come forward then out of fear of crossing a powerful star.

"My reaction was a deer in headlights ... complete humiliation," she told Reuters, adding that she was angered by Schwarzenegger's partial and general apology. "He's speaking out of both sides of his mouth," she said.

On the attack

Davis, who started his Sunday campaigning at a rally at a Los Angeles hospital to mark his signing of bill mandating employer-provided health insurance for a million workers, stayed on the attack against his leading rival.

Davis appeared emboldened by a second consecutive internal poll showing support for the recall waning and below 50 percent—with just 49 percent in favor. Pollster Ben Tulchin said the shift came from independent and Democratic women voters.

In a bid to counter Schwarzenegger's Hollywood appeal, "Lethal Weapon" star Danny Glover also campaigned with Davis, saying the actor's accounts of "rowdy movie sets" did not square with his own experience in the industry.

"A star of the magnitude of Arnold Schwarzenegger would be in control of what happens on that set. He would have to be somebody who would say, 'I don't want this allowed on my set. I don't want the disrespect of women allowed,'" Glover said. *Reuters*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila
Announcement

The Judicial and Bar Council is now accepting applications for the positions of **Chairman and Members of the Legal Education Board**, pursuant to Republic Act. 7662.

Pursuant to Republic Act 7662, Sec. 4, the Board shall be composed of a:

1. **Chairman** - who shall preferably be a former justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals;

2. **Regular Members:**

A. A representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines;
B. A representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS);
C. A representative of the Philippine Association of Law Professors (PALP);
D. A representative from the ranks of active law practitioners;
E. A representative from the law student's sector.

Applicants should specify the category to which he is applying.

Applications or recommendations should be submitted to the Judicial and Bar Council not later than **15 November 2003**. In case of recommendations, the conformity of the recommendee should also be submitted by **15 November 2003** at the:

Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Second Floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila

02 October 2003.

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

ROYAL TOURS
2003 CHINESE EXPORT COMMODITIES FAIR
(GUANGZHOU TRADE FAIR)
(4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS PACKAGE TOUR)
$ 478 GUANGZHOU HOTEL 4 Star
•PHASE 1 OCT. 16 - 19
•PHASE 2 OCT. 26 - 29
VIA PHILIPPINE AIRLINES+FREE CHINA VISA
MT. PUTUO PILGRIMAGE TOUR
4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS $ 585
Royal Vacation Holiday Travel & Tours
523 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila
Tels.: 524-9971, 524-9987, 521-6727 FAX: 521-3288

OFFICE CLUB.com THE NEW WAY TO OFFICE www.officeclub.com.ph
COMPLETE SCHOOL / OFFICE SUPPLIES, OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Call for Free 48 pages Catalog
CLERICAL CHAIR P 1,565.00
CLASSIC MANAGER P 2,985.00
FLYING PORTABLE TYPEWRITER P 1,875.00
CASIO from P 295.00 up
STABILO HIGHLIGHTER P 21.00
VERBATIM CD-R P 25.00
PILOT BOND P 82.00
ARCHFILE BINDER P 95.00 up
CASH DRAWER w/ bell P 2,100.00
PLASTIC SEALER P 395.00
MOBILE CABINET P 2,195.00
DIGITAL BANTAM SAFE P 3,150.00
SECURITY CAMERA P 5,405.00
OHP PROJECTOR P 4,895.00
WATER DISPENSER P 4,995.00
MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo Manila
Tel No 244 7211 up to 15
Fax No 243 1876
E-Mail Add sales@officeclub.com.ph
MAKATI
814 A Arnaiz Ave. Makati City
Tel No 752-8378 up to 81
Fax No 752 8378
E-Mail Add oc_makati@yahoo.com
SAN JUAN
88 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan Metro Manila
Tel No 724-7202 / 724-7005

Lakas sees no need for GMA draft

From page A1

tional convention in Nov. 14, according to Alvarez.

Jose Ma. Rufino, Lakas-CMD executive director, said the list was getting longer.

The names of those who have been floated include Lakas-CMD Senators Robert Barbers, Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former education secretary Raul Roco, independent Sen. Noli de Castro and opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., according to Secretary Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Rufino said other possible running mates endorsed to the party were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority, and Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

Defensor said some quarters were pushing for a GMA-Roco tandem. But he said there were also moves to draft De Castro as the President's running mate.

Shorter list

The list of possible running mates got even shorter yesterday after three senators who were included expressed disinterest in joining the race.

Drilon, Flavier and Magsaysay gave different reasons for saying they were not keen about the proposal. Only Barbers said he would accept the offer if formally asked.

De Castro, on the other hand, said he was still assessing the situation.

"I would rather be a political bystander at this point and watch the political scene," Drilon told reporters.

Magsaysay, who earlier declared interest in running for president in case Ms Macapagal kept her promise not to run, said he just wanted to complete his term in the Senate, which ends in 2007.

"I'll simply help the candidates of Lakas, including the senatorial candidates and others who we feel are fit to lead the country," he said.

For his part, Flavier said he was not inclined to join the vice presidential race "for the same reasons" he was not inclined to run for president. He mentioned funding and health problems and thin party support for him.

Barbers said he would accept the offer if it is made to him. "I'm a loyal soldier. I will follow orders," he told reporters.

In Laguna, members of the Lakas-CMD passed a resolution endorsing Lina as the "best" choice for Ms Macapagal's running mate.

Calamba City Mayor Severino Lajara said the resolution was the consensus of party members, who recognized Lina's "track record as senator, Cabinet secretary and Laguna governor."

Not interested

Mayor Osmeña said he was not interested in the vice presidency, but would support Ms Macapagal in 2004.

"I am not interested because I love Cebu. I am not sure if I love this job but I love Cebu," he said.

He said he could not afford to be distracted now as he believed that running for Vice President would create a power vacuum in Cebu City.

Osmeña is seeking reelection and is expected to face his bitter rival and predecessor, Alvin Garcia. He defeated Garcia in 2001 election in what was considered the closest fight in recent years.

Osmeña said he was endorsing Roco as Ms Macapagal's running mate so as not to split the administration votes. The mayor said he talked to Roco, a close friend of his, a few days ago to convince him to slide down to vice president.

But Osmeña said Roco told him that he could not wait for another six years to run for president. Still, he said, he was still hopeful that Roco would change his mind.

Status of coalition

Magsaysay said he would join today's meeting of the Lakas national executive directorate to find out whether the members of the People Power Coalition were still in the alliance. Lakas, Kampi, Aksyon Demokratiko, Promdi, Reporma and Liberal Party formed the coalition to oust President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur) said Lakas members, who earlier endorsed non-Lakas presidential aspirants like Roco and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., would toe the party line.

"While it is true that some Lakas men went for either Roco or Cojuangco before, the situation has changed now that the President is running," Pichay said.

Pichay said some Lakas members expressed support for either Roco or Cojuangco because Ms Macapagal announced on Dec. 30 that she was not joining the presidential race.

At the Lakas-CMD meeting, the party is also expected to support the President against the Jose Pidal charges of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"I think we will demand a more responsible fiscalization, not shooting from the hips," Alvarez said in a phone interview.

"I think there is a sense in the party that the charges of Mr. Lacson do not satisfy the standards of fairness and legitimate accusations backed by evidence and clarity of what laws have been violated," he said.

Lacson has accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of laundering at least P260 million in campaign contributions to his wife using the banks accounts of Jose Pidal, Arroyo's alleged assumed name, and other dummy accounts.

Reorganization

Alvarez said the party would also try to "crystallize the issues" that should govern the 2004 campaign. "We would like the elections to be a battle of issues. We want to bring the campaign to a higher level," he said.

The President, who serves as party chair along with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., will not be present at the meeting. She is in Bali, Indonesia attending a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. She is expected to give a statement to the party through De Venecia.

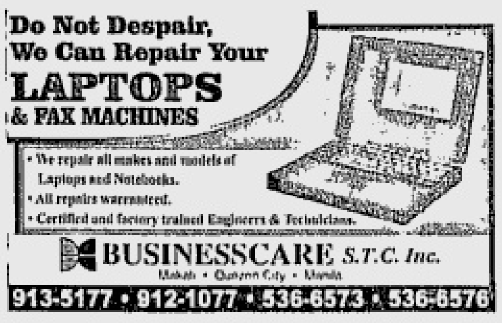
The ruling party is also expected to undertake a reorganization following the resignations from the party of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Sen. Loren Legarda.

Guingona and Legarda previously held the positions of president and vice president for the Visayas, respectively. Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has been appointed acting Lakas president.

Guingona yesterday said he was still open to running for president on a nationalist platform. "There is a substantial number of Filipinos who feel the same way (as I do)," he said at the weekly Kapihan sa Maynila forum.

"We will be studying these and watch for developments," said Guingona , currently the government's caretaker while Ms Macapagal is attending the Asean summit. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Jerome Aning in Manila; Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

KITANO®/K8 OFFICE EQUIPMENT www.niboworld.com
CHECKWRITER KI-880 CW-1600 16 currencies w/ink
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE • 120 copies/min • auto & manual operation • speed control • automatic inking
NEW THERMAL BINDING MACHINE
BILL COUNTER • 3-way Counterspeed • Auto or Manual Start Mode • Bill Batch Counter
TATA 24-HOLE PUNCH & BIND MACHINE *Also available 21-hole
LAMINATOR LM-230 • Hot and Cold Lamination • With temperature control Size available: 12 1/2" & 18 1/2"
NIBO SHREDDER * Snow Cut & Straight Cut
TIME RECORDER KT-6200 • 2 Color Ribbon • Auto-Shift (In-Out) • Melody Function CD-9810 w/ Back-up Battery
TIME STAMP • Alpha-numeric printing • Numbering machine • Time & Date print TP 10 II
HOLE PUNCHER TATA Heavy Duty 2, 3 & 4
Makati Tel.: 8905327 / 8905310 / 8967764 Fax:890-5320 DEALERS ARE WELCOME!


Do Not Despair, We Can Repair Your LAPTOPS & FAX MACHINES
• We repair all makes and models of Laptops and Notebooks.
• All repairs warranted.
• Certified and factory trained Engineers & Technicians.
BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Makati • Quezon City • Manila
913-5177 • 912-1077 • 536-6573 • 536-6576

CURE BAD BREATH NOW!
Now it's here... America's revolutionary health products THERABREATH system ™.
The amazing discovery for effective treatment of chronic *bad breath, bitter/sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue and throat, not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work.
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Call for free delivery within Metro Manila
Tel# 890-8380, 895-5512, 897-2466, 895-6775,0917-7958

enjoy, unwind and relax at TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
A minute drive to ROTUNDA / at the back of McDONALDS and OLIVAREZ PLAZA
Own a lot for as low as P10,920 / mo.
*NO DOWN PAYMENT SCHEME also available
HLURB License to Sell No.: Phase 1:05609-R4-02-09 / Phase 2: 07260-R4A-03-C
CITYLAND 812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • (0919) 310-8853
www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net

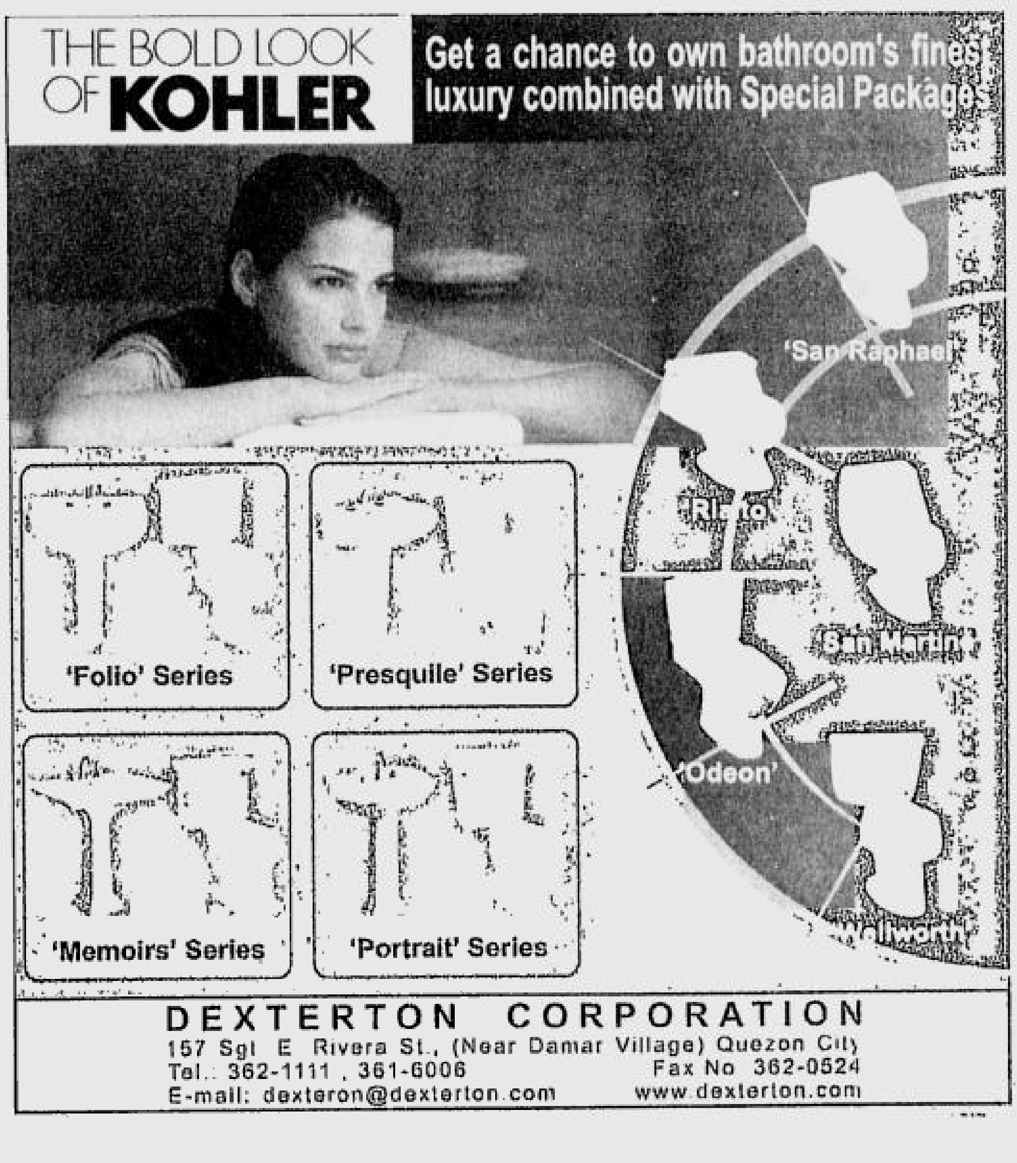
SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL OFFER
BUNDY CLOCK 8.900.00
METAL SCANNER 4,950.00
PAPER SHREDDER 4,350.00
RATIONAL COMMERCIAL, BINONDO, MANILA
TEL 241-3570 /3771 / 3784 / 3789 FAX 241 3746

Are the mice playing when the cat is away?
TO SUPERVISE OFFICE
- Prevent wastage, pilferage, burglary
- Monitor daily routines and employee behavior
- Increase production, prevent wastage
- Monitor your cash register
TO SUPERVISE MAIDS/VISITORS AT HOME
- Monitor and record your home when you're out
- Prevent and deter criminal activity
STAR EYE
For more info, visit or call us at:
Star Value Electronics, Inc.
Address: 37 Samat Street, SMH, 1114, Quezon City
Tel: (63-2)416-0936 to 0938 Fax: (63-2)416-0935
Email: starvalue@starcomm.com.ph
We also have remote monitoring
Dealers, freelance agents welcome!

TOUR SPECIALS
PHILIPPINES FULL PACKAGE TOURS
PANGLAO, BOHOL P8,350
FORT ILOCANDIA P6,200
BORACAY P5,698
INTERNATIONAL FULL PACKAGE TOURS
HONG KONG/SHENZHEN VIA PAL $ 165
SINGAPORE VIA PAL $ 250
VIETNAM SAIGON VIA PAL $ 325
(Extension to Bangkok & Angkor Wat Available)
AUSTRALIA VIA QF $ 495
INDIA (Golden Triangle) $ 999
Special Land Arrangement BANGKOK $33 per person
Other destinations
USA, CANADA, HONGKONG, KOREA, SINGAPORE, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, BALI, BRUNEI, VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, SOUTH AMERICA, SOUTH AFRICA, CONTINENTAL EUROPE, SCANDINAVIA, MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, ISRAEL, EGYPT, INDIA, PAKISTAN and many more!
For a comprehensive update on special travel promotions
WORLD WINGS
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURS CORPORATION
TELS: 926-5804, 926-5806, 926-5817, 926-5821, 926-5849, 926-5854, 410-7184, 410-7196 : 0917-8474660 FAX 926-5842
Ground Flr, K Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
OPEN ON SATURDAYS E-mail: worldwings@worldwings.com.ph

*TAKEN AT BAY GARDENS, METROPOLITAN PARK
More on the greenery, less strain on your money.
Enjoy the outdoors with Storeshop's newest offer!
Get a Pavillion Garden Tent
for only P995.00 !
(cash or charge)
PERFECT FOR:
• PARTIES
• EXHIBITS
• OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
• CAR SHADE
AVAILABLE IN GREEN AND BLUE SHADES
Size: 10ft. x 10ft.
Promo good from Sept. 27 to Oct. 31, 2003 only! Visit your nearest Storeshop branch now!
Per DTI-NCR Permit# 2799 series of 2003
store shop outdoor Lifestyle Company
FAIRVIEW: 417-6380 • ORTIGAS: 635-4733 • MAKATI: 892-2216 • SUCAT: 820-9525 • ALABANG: 850-3769 • BACOOR: (046) 970-8083 • IMUS: (046) 875-3149 • BIÑAN: (049) 411-5073 • LOS BAÑOS: (049) 827-0531 • LIPA: (043) 404-0093 • PAMPANGA: (045) 961-1160 • CABANATUAN: (044) 464-0139 • URDANETA: (075) 568-3684 • ILOILO: (033) 320-2045 • SM CEBU: (032) 232-0337 • AYALA CEBU: (032) 233-6796 • CAGAYAN DE ORO: (088) 859-2308 • KAMUNING: 929-4472
For inquiries call 411-6840/372-4484

HEARING PROBLEMS?
It's time for a sound investment.
Sountex™ is proud to present the world's smallest hearing aid from Siemens. Designed to be wo hearing aid automatically enhances speech clarity and Find out more at our centers and hear the cryst Siemens hearing aids for yourself.
At Sountex™, we want to make sure you are hearing everything that you should. If you would like your hearing and how Sountex™ can make you hear better, call us to schedule a "no-obligation" FREE
PREMIER PRODUCTS. UNPARALLELED SERVICE.
MEDICAL PLAZA MAKATI: 867-1916
ROBINSONS ORTIGAS: 635-9033
SOUNtex THE HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS


THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER
Get a chance to own bathroom's finest luxury combined with Special Packages
'San Raphael' 'Rialto' 'San Martin' 'Odeon' 'Wellworth'
'Folio' Series 'Presquile' Series 'Memoirs' Series 'Portrait' Series
DEXTERTON CORPORATION
157 Sgt E Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 , 361-6006 Fax No 362-0524
E-mail: dexteron@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

World slams Israel raid on Syria

RELATIVES and friends mourn over the bodies of Hana Francis, 39, top, and his cousin Sharbak Matar, 23, during their Christian Orthodox funeral in the village of Fassouta, north of Haifa Oct. 5. The two were killed Saturday when a Palestinian woman blew herself up in Haifa, killing 19 people, in one of the deadliest attacks in the past three years. AP

CAIRO—Countries around the world Sunday condemned an Israeli raid on Syria, saying the air strike against an alleged Palestinian militant training camp would only further destabilize the Middle East.

German and Egyptian leaders Gerhard Schroeder and Hosni Mubarak were among the first to react and among the most outspoken.

The German chancellor, on a tour of Arab countries, told a news conference in Cairo with Mubarak that the violation of the sovereignty of a third country "cannot be accepted."

The Egyptian president slammed the "aggression... against a brother country."

Israel said its air force hit a training camp deep inside Syria allegedly used by militant groups including Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing Saturday in the Israeli coastal city of Haifa.

The blast inside a crowded restaurant killed 19 people, as well as the female bomber.

The US, which considers Syria a "terrorist" state, urged both sides to avoid stoking tensions.

"At this time we urge both Israel and Syria to avoid actions that heighten tensions or could lead to hostilities," said an administration official who requested anonymity.

"We have repeatedly told the government of Syria that it is on the wrong side in the war on terror and that it must stop harboring terrorists," the official added. "That is still our view."

White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius also said US President George W. Bush telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to offer condolences over the Haifa attack and to discuss the raid.

"The president called Prime Minister Sharon to express his condolences and those of the American people on the terrorist attack in Haifa yesterday," Lisaius said.

"They agreed on the need to continue fighting terrorism. They discussed the attack on the terrorist camp in Syria. They also agreed on the need to avoid heightening tension in the region at this time."

The Arab League warned the air strike could spark "a whirlwind of violence" and called on the UN Security Council—which met in emergency session at Syria's request—to rein in the Jewish state "immediately."

"This dangerous aggression is a dangerous escalation that threatens regional and international security and peace... it could lead to a whirlwind of violence," the 22-member pan-Arab organization said in a statement after an emergency delegates meeting at its Cairo headquarters on the crisis.

SUICIDE bomber Hanadi Tayseer Jaradat REUTERS

France and Britain also appealed for both sides to exercise restraint in the latest escalation in violence in Israel and the occupied territories, where a three-year uprising has killed more than 3,500 people.

Britain, while acknowledging Israel's right to defend itself, said it had to do so within the constraints of international law.

France condemned the air attack as "an unacceptable violation of international law."

"In a Middle East rocked by crises, it is everybody's responsibility, especially that of states in the region, to not add to the instability and tensions," its foreign ministry said in a statement. *AFP*

Arafat forms emergency gov't to block possible Israeli action

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Yasser Arafat installed a small Cabinet by decree, with Ahmed Qureia as prime minister, and declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian areas in an apparent attempt to block Israeli action against him following a suicide bombing.

Qureia and his eight-member emergency Cabinet are to be sworn in Tuesday and will serve for a limited term of up to two months. Qureia, tapped by Arafat for the job last month, had initially planned to present a larger government to parliament for approval later in the week.

Israel threatened last month to "remove" Arafat, without setting a time, and there were new demands for his expulsion after Saturday's attack by the Islamic Jihad group. Nineteen Israelis were killed in a crowded beachfront restaurant in the northern port city of Haifa.

Aides to the Palestinian leader have said he was clearly concerned about possible Israeli action after the bombing. There was no direct move against Arafat after the suicide bombing; instead, Israel bombed a target inside Syria that it claimed was an Islamic Jihad training base, striking deep inside its neighbor's territory Sunday for the first time in three decades.

The Islamic militant group Hamas said it fired 16 mortar shells at Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip overnight, in retaliation for the Israeli air strike on Syria. The Israel army said it was checking the claim. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Hamas also said it would also carry out more attacks in Israel. "Any aggression against an Arab or Islamic country is an aggression against the Palestinian people and, God willing, our response to this aggression will be decisive," read a statement on a Hamas web site. "We call on our fighters... to respond quickly, and in the heart of the Zionist entity, to this serious escalation."

In installing an emergency Cabinet, Arafat makes it more difficult for Israel to move against him. The United States appears willing to give Qureia a chance, and any Israeli action against Arafat could force Qureia's immediate resignation and cause chaos in Palestinian areas.

Qureia told The Associated Press he would try to implement the US-backed "road map" peace plan and "work... to get out of this situation of chaos in the Palestinian territories." *AP*

Iraqi Army vets protest for 2nd day

BAGHDAD—Tempers flared Sunday as Iraqi former servicemen awaiting payment of back salary protested a second day in Baghdad and the southern port of Basra after coalition troops told them no money was available.

The demonstrations erupted after three Iraqis were killed Saturday, two in the capital and the other in Basra, when army veterans awaiting a one-off payment of $40 clashed with coalition forces. The coalition blamed Saturday's incidents on supporters of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

About 400 former soldiers protested again in Basra Sunday, throwing rocks at the British soldiers who responded by firing rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, an AFP reporter observed.

At least a dozen people were arrested, said an ex-police officer, Najah Ali, who had come to claim his back payment.

The veterans had lined up earlier in hopes of receiving the payment and the British handed out a pamphlet, saying there would be a delay due to the "necessary documents being burnt during the demonstrations" Saturday.

A British officer, Captain Rawlin Mike, said it would be seven to 10 days before the British in Basra would receive a new list of who still needs to be paid.

In Baghdad, several hundred former Iraqi soldiers marched outside offices where they had hoped to receive their pay, and insulted US troops after being told no funds would be paid out at this stage.

A few scuffles broke out between the Iraqi veterans and the US troops, backed by armored vehicles, who pushed back the crowd as a loudspeaker mounted on a military truck announced: "There will be no more payments today."

Two American photographers, Thorn Anderson from Corbis and Michael Kleinfeld from UPI, were roughed up by the crowd and had camera equipment stolen. *AFP*

China: Too many cars in Beijing

BEIJING—The Chinese government is urgently seeking ways to ease traffic in Beijing as cars multiply by the millions, clogged roads undermine productivity and the 2008 Olympics draw nearer, the official news agency said Monday.

The number of cars on the Chinese capital's traffic-clogged streets has surpassed 2 million—and is expected to grow by at least 3 million more in the next few years, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Beijing recorded a total of 16,789 traffic jams in 2002, Xinhua said. It didn't specify exactly what counted as a traffic jam. But, it lamented, rush hour is "actually consuming 11 hours of the day."

"Beijing residents often joke that the time they spend on the way to work often turns out to be longer than their actual working hours," Xinhua said.

Duan Liren, former deputy director of Beijing's Traffic Control Bureau, said 1 million more vehicles hit Beijing's streets in the past seven years and an additional 3 million—minimum—are expected in the next few years.

Beijing's roads are struggling to keep up: The city government has spent more than $1.2 billion annually since 2000 upgrading roads and adding more than 2,000 km of roads inside the city limits. *AP*

DRINK, DRINK, DRINK

Waitresses holding beersteins dance on a table during the last evening of the Oktoberfest beer festival in Munich, southern Germany, late Oct. 5. During the 16 days of the world's biggest beer festival, 6.3 million visitors drank 6.1 million liters of beer. AP

World slum dwellers to double to 2 billion in 30 years, UN says

LONDON—The population of the world's slums will double to two billion people within 30 years, presenting a major threat to global stability unless drastic measures are taken urgently, the United Nations says.

From the kampungs of Indonesia to the townships of Africa and the favelas of Brazil one-third of the world's three billion urban dwellers are already crammed into slums, a figure set to mushroom as the country-to-town trickle turns into a torrent.

In a report titled The Challenge of Slums, the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) has called on governments around the world to recognize the scale and seriousness of the looming crisis.

"This is a time-bomb," Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, UN-Habitat's chief of policy analysis, told reporters.

In a foreword to the report launched on Monday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that without concerted efforts by governments worldwide, the number of slum dwellers was likely to increase in most developing countries.

"And if no serious action is taken, the number of slum dwellers worldwide is projected to rise over the next 30 years to about two billion," he said.

Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, said there was an irresistible and irreversible flow from the countryside to the towns, with half of the world's six billion people already urbanized.

Asia already had 550 million slum dwellers or 60 percent of the world's total, Africa had 187 million slum dwellers or 20 percent of the total and Latin America had 128 million slum dwellers or 14 percent of the total.

Even in the developed world there were 54 million slum dwellers or six percent of the world's total.

"By 2050 we estimate that the world's population will be nine billion people, of whom six billion will be living in cities and of those 3.5 billion will be living in slums unless we do something radical to address the problem," Tibaijuka said.

Despite all the evidence of what was happening, the report said there was little or no planning to accommodate the mass of people pouring into cities seeking a better life.

Shelter, water, sanitation, power and employment were all in critically short supply, opening the way for crime to boom.

"Governments' failure to supply services to the spreading slums leave a gap where criminals can move in. There is a vacuum which is dangerous," Tibaijuka said.

"In Africa we have explosive slums. In Latin America there are many slums to which the authorities have no access.

"The poor are not terrorists. But extreme social deprivation can lead people to anti-social behavior. Population flows are all interlinked. That is why this is a global issue."

Mutizwa-Mangiza said the key to short-circuiting the problem was to make the slum dwellers part of the solution not part of the problem by encouraging the development of craft businesses. *Reuters*

CIA agent in leak scandal fears for her safety

WASHINGTON—The former ambassador at the core of the White House leak controversy accused the Bush administration on Sunday of blowing his wife's CIA cover to muzzle criticism over the Iraq war and said they both now feared for her safety.

Joseph Wilson, a seasoned diplomat in both Republican and Democratic governments, said President George W. Bush's top political aide Karl Rove, while likely not the source of the leak, later "gave legs" to a newspaper column that revealed his wife's identity as a CIA operative.

"I do have a number of people, or a person in whom I have a high degree of confidence, who has told me that Karl Rove told him that my wife is 'fair game,' and that was one week after the leak," Wilson told CBS's "Face The Nation."

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan last week denied Rove was behind the disclosure of Valerie Plame's name. Revealing classified information is a federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison and the Justice Department has opened an investigation into the alleged leak.

Wilson said it now appeared his wife's name was leaked by someone outside the White House, as an act of revenge to stop him and others from questioning the intelligence used to go to war with Iraq.

"This administration apparently decided the way to do that was to leak the name of my wife," he told NBC's "Meet The Press."

Wilson had questioned the president's State of the Union address in which Bush said Iraq had sought to buy uranium from Africa. Wilson went to Niger early in 2002 at the CIA's request to assess the uranium claim and said it was very doubtful.

Wilson said he and his wife, a specialist in unconventional weapons who worked overseas, were increasingly concerned she might be a target due to the disclosure and "as a consequence of that, have begun to rethink our own security posture."

The US government had not offered any security measures, said Wilson, adding that a leading former CIA official had said his wife "was probably the single highest target of any possible terrorist organization or hostile intelligence service that might want to do damage."

The New York Times reported on Sunday Plame had "non-official cover," what the CIA calls a "Noc," the most difficult kind of false identity for the agency to create, often involving especially dangerous jobs.

Plame passed herself off as a private energy expert, working for a company that has been identified as Brewster Jennings and Associates, believed to be a CIA front company.

Jim Marcinkowski, an ex-CIA officer who called Plame the best shot in their class with an AK-47 rifle, told Time magazine her career as an undercover operative was over.

"She will no longer be safe traveling overseas," said Marcinkowski, who trained with Plame at Camp Peary, the Virginia school for CIA recruits. "I liken that to the knee-capping of an athlete." *Reuters*

Male birth control successful in Australia

SYDNEY—Australian researchers said on Sunday they had conducted a successful experiment using two hormones to suppress sperm production, which they said could lead to the first injectable male contraceptive.

Men in the trial of 55 couples received hormone treatment over the course of a year using a combination of the male hormone testosterone and progestin, which is used in female contraceptive pills.

Scientists from Sydney's ANZAC Research Institute and the Prince Henry Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne said the aim of the trial had been to "switch off" male sperm production.

None of the men's partners became pregnant during the trial and none showed any side effects. The hormone treatment was the only form of contraception used during the trial, they said.

"This is the first time a reversible male contraceptive that will suppress sperm production reliably and reversibly has been fully tested by couples," the institute's principal investigator professor David Handelsman said in a statement.

He said a testosterone implant had been injected every four months and a progestin had been injected every three months.

"This shows the way for a final product to be a single injection containing testosterone and a progestin which will easily be given by local doctors on a three-four monthly basis and still maintain male sexual health," Handelsman said.

Developing an effective and convenient male contraceptive has been difficult, in part because of the rapid rate at which men produce sperm.

A recent British trial showed promise but side effects stopped the trial.

Testosterone is often linked with virility but treatment with the hormone can suppress the production of sperm by reducing levels of hormones called gonadotropins. *Reuters*

AFGHANS cross the border into Pakistan at Chaman border, Oct. 5. This unchecked border crossing is just one example of the porousness of the 1200-km frontier between the two countries at the province of Baluchistan, a frontier which Afghan officials say is criss-crossed at will by resurgent Taliban forces and their al-Qaida allies waging a bloody guerrilla campaign inside Afghanistan. AFP

Still no change in Afghan women's plight 2 years after Taliban's ouster, says report

KABUL—The plight of many Afghan women has barely improved in the two years since the ouster of the Taliban regime, with forced marriages, rapes and domestic violence still occurring frequently, Amnesty International says.

In a report to be released Monday, the London-based human rights group accused the international community of failing to do enough in this war-torn country, where most women are still cloistered at home and wear body-shrouding burkas in public.

The ultraconservative Taliban regime, which was toppled by a US-led invasion in 2001, had banned women from working and girls from school. The Afghan government has since lifted those restrictions, but in rural areas where it has little authority many women still cannot work or girls be educated.

"Nearly two years on, discrimination, violence, and insecurity remain rife, despite promises by world leaders, including (US) President Bush and US Secretary of State Colin Powell, that the war in Afghanistan would bring liberation for women," the report said.

It added: "The situation is unacceptable and calls for urgent action."

Titled "Afghanistan: No one listens to us and no one treats us as human beings. Justice denied to women," the report documents instances of widespread violence, forced marriage and rape.

In some cases, Amnesty said, girls as young as 8 years old are married to much older men.

In August, the group said that women were being discriminated against, with the system "failing to protect victims of rape, domestic violence and forced underage marriage."

"Girls and women are being prosecuted for engaging in consensual sexual activity—in some areas, the police randomly pick up girls and women and subject them to forced virginity tests," the group said then.

The latest report comes shortly before the release of a draft constitution, which the writers say will try to revolutionize the way women are treated in this devoutly Muslim country.

The document will ban forced marriages, bridal dowries and other forms of discrimination. It will guarantee women a political voice by giving them the right to vote and reserving them seats in Parliament, and will enshrine equal health care and education for all.

However, the government's ability to enforce the constitution is limited. President Hamid Karzai has little authority outside the capital, Kabul, where most areas are ruled by warlords with private militias. *AP*

Kremlin's candidate in Chechnya sweeps poll

GROZNY, Russia—The Kremlin's candidate in Chechnya's presidential election Akhmad Kadyrov was assured of a landslide victory Monday amid cries of foul in a poll that few expect to bring peace to Russia's troubled southern republic.

Electoral officials in the capital Grozny said Kadyrov had won more than 82 percent of votes cast in Sunday's poll with more than half the votes counted.

Turnout was set at more than 81 percent, a figure that appeared barely plausible to journalists at the scene who had visited several polling stations where the number of voters had seemed extremely low.

The head of the electoral commission Abdul-Karim Arsakhanov said Kadyrov, the head of Chechnya's pro-Russian administration since June 2000, had secured 82.5 percent of the vote. Some 52.85 percent of the ballots had been counted, he said.

Of the six other candidates, none of whom presented a serious threat to Kadyrov's election, only Abdul Bugayev, with a provisional score of 5.4 percent, made any impact.

"From the telephone data we have received, we can say that Kadyrov has an absolute and unbeatable lead," the electoral chief said, as quoted by the Interfax news agency.

However, he could not declare Kadyrov president until final official results were obtained, he said.

Russian authorities have presented the election of a new Chechen president as evidence that the situation in the republic has returned to normal.

However, critics have warned that the poll, widely seen as skewed in favor of Kadyrov, would do little or nothing to bring an end to the fighting.

Kadyrov on Sunday reaffirmed his refusal to hold talks with rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov, the last legally elected president of Chechnya, and predicted that rebel supporters would "switch sides in two or three weeks or a month." *AFP*

China to send 2nd space mission soon after first

BEIJING—As China's first-ever manned space flight approaches its launch date, a leading space expert said Monday a second manned mission could blast off within six months.

The Shenzhou V, or Divine Vessel V, is expected to take off in the days following Oct. 14 and will orbit the earth at least 10 times in a flight lasting less than 24 hours, said Chen Lan, curator of the Go Taikonauts! website.

"The launch cannot come before Oct. 14 because Chinese leaders will be attending an important meeting in Beijing and I believe some of them, like (former president and military strongman) Jiang Zemin, will want to be at the launch site to witness the launch," Chen said.

Chen, whose website has accurately monitored China's space program and satellite launches since the 1990s, added that the weather and other technical matters could influence the final launch date.

"If the weather is not just right or if they have any technical problems then for sure the launch date will be moved back," he said.

On his website, Chen has posted a list of China's 14 astronauts and predicts that either Li Qinglong or Wu Jie, two pilots who have trained in Russia's space program, could be selected to man the historic flight.

Other Chinese astronauts hoping to be China's first in space include Chen Quan, Deng Qingming, Fei Junlong, Jing Haipen, Liu Buoming, Liu Wang, Nie Haishen, Pan Zhanchun, Yang Liwei, Zhai Zhigang, Zhang Xiaoguan, Zhao Chuandong.

Chinese space officials have indicated that the Shenzhou V pilot will be selected on the morning of the flight from a pool of three or four astronauts that have already been named.

Criteria will include psychological and physical makeup on the morning of the launch.

Chen said he doubted that more than one astronaut would fly on the Shenzhou V, despite the space capsule's three-man capacity.

"It is almost sure that only one astronaut will fly in Shenzhou V, but if the flight is completely successful, then I'm pretty sure that at least two astronauts will fly on Shenzhou VI in a flight that could come within six months," Chen said.

Since Shenzhou I flew its maiden unmanned voyage in 1999, space experts have speculated that the first manned flight could include more than one astronaut due to the size of the space capsule.

Such a flight would put China technically ahead in initial phases of both the former Soviet Union and the United States, who as the only other nations to put humans in space first flew solo missions. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 7, 2003
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 3:1-10
Gospel: Lk 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he entered a village and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister named Mary who sat down at the Lord's feet to listen to his words. Martha, meanwhile, was busy with all the serving and finally she said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the serving?"

But the Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about many things, whereas only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

Commentary

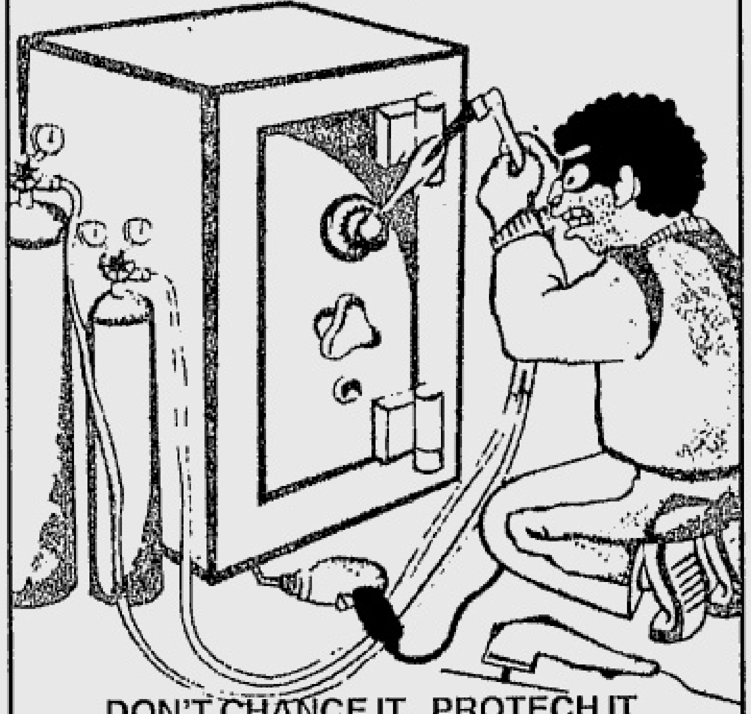
"Go to Nineveh, that great city, and announce to them the message I give you." At first, Jonah wanted to run away from God's call but eventually listened and followed the voice of God. Prophets are called by God to be His messenger, to speak in his behalf. They are fully aware of their own limitations and sinfulness as well as well aware of the great responsibility. Because of these reasons, they usually reject the initial call of God. But God does not take no for an answer. He calls again and confirms the call by giving some signs. Reluctantly, a prophet accepts his mission relying on God's promise of guidance and strength. By virtue of our baptism, we share in the prophetic mission of Christ. Are we fulfilling this mission?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK ONE—AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Nocturnity—For nocturnity to be properly appreciated, it must be shown that it facilitated the commission of the crime and that it was purposely sought for by the offender. By and itself, nighttime is not an aggravating circumstance. In the instant case, no sufficient evidence was offered to prove that accused-appellant deliberately sought the cover of darkness to accomplish his criminal design. In fact, there was testimonial evidence that a fluorescent lamp sufficiently illuminated the scene of the crime. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, People v. Abrazaldo, G.R. No. 124392, February 7, 2003] By R. B. Vera

PROtech
CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
ISO 9001: 2000
CIP/3061/02/07/301
APOLLO SERIES
World Class Burglar Resisting Safe



DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.
PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

HEAD OFFICE:
2643-U Taft Ave., Pasay City, MM
Tels 833-3622 * 833-1246 * 831-0648
551-4809 * 551-7869
Fax (032) 831-2961
E-mail protech@philonline.com

CEBU OFFICE:
Escario St. cor. Don Mariano Cui St.
Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel (032) 255-6384
Telefax (032) 254-0301
E-mail protechc@mozcom.com

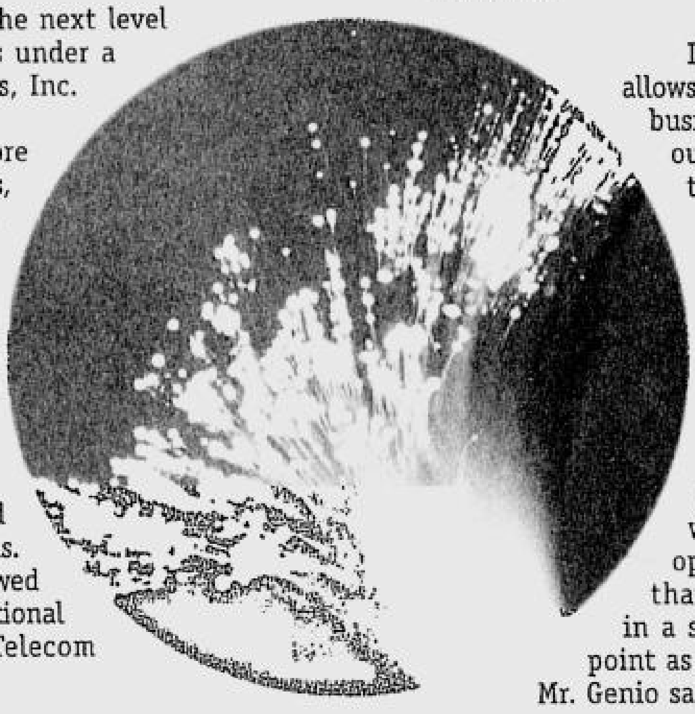
DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit-B Atty Fanlo Compound
Padre Gomez St., Davao City
Tel. (082) 221-5021
Cell No. 0912-8885852
E-mail protechd@mozcom.com

innove
COMMUNICATIONS

BREAKING NEW GROUNDS

Over the years, Globe Telecom, Inc. has established itself as a pioneer in the wireless business, matching customers' need for speed, connectivity, and reach – from person to person, business to business, local to global.

This year, Globe is taking its commitment to the next level by unifying its data and voice wireline businesses under a new and exciting venture: Innove Communications, Inc.



Innove is a financially strong company with more than P24 billion in assets, P8 billion in annual revenues, P2 billion in annual operating income, and zero debt. It maintains strong support from Globe and its shareholders – winning elements that no other carrier can match.

"Innove will be Globe Telecom's subsidiary serving voice, private data networks, and Internet needs of individuals and enterprises in the Philippines. We are transferring and integrating our wireline networks and operations into this fully-owned subsidiary, which used to be named Isla Communications. This expanded and focused company signals our renewed commitment to innovation, customer focus and operational excellence," said Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr., Globe Telecom President/CEO and Innove Chairman.

Last October 1, all the assets, licenses, manpower, products and services of Globelines and GlobeQUEST (the brands will still be offered under license from Globe) were fully migrated to Innove.

"While we have significantly improved the financials of our wireline business in the past few years, we need to move beyond the status quo. We want to position wireline for success. The wireline business needs to be able to shape its own future, and pursue business directions more independently. A new structure is needed to give wireline the flexibility to address market opportunities in the future," said Gil B. Genio, Innove CEO. With both Globe and Innove in place, the two companies will now be strategically well-positioned within their respective businesses to meet the challenges of the increasingly competitive telecommunications environment, and maximize opportunities through a focused approach to their respective segments.

Innove is adopting "customer-centric" innovation which allows it to develop products and solutions based on specific business and consumer requirements instead of coming out with a portfolio of generic products that is pushed to the corporate market as a whole.

Innove will also undertake partnerships and potentially other overtures and will focus on alliances with application developers, system integrators and other organizations that would help it deliver more customized services.

"Several conditions in the country's communications market are driving the demand for wireline communications services. Given the many opportunities and challenges in this sector, we believe that the decision to house Globelines and GlobeQUEST in a single company, will give Innove a unique starting point as a financially strong and focused wireline company," Mr. Genio said.

On August 7, 2003, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) approved the legal transfer of Globe's wireline business, authorizations, properties and assets to Islacom. Islacom's corporate name was subsequently changed to Innove to reflect the renewed drive for innovation and excellence in the consolidated wireline business. The name change was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 25, 2003.

Mr. Genio said Innove would continue to market and sell Globelines and GlobeQUEST services, while Globe would focus on the wireless segment of its business.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GERARDO C. ABLAZA, JR.
Chairman of the Board

GIL B. GENIO
Chief Executive Officer

DELFIN C. GONZALEZ, JR.
Director

RODOLFO A. SALALIMA
Director

CESAR M. MAUREAL
Director

BEHIND THE INNOVE NAME AND LOGO

Innove (pronounced in-no-ve) literally means *"I innovate"* in Spanish, yet its message of innovation is universal. Much like what its name implies, Innove Communications, Inc. positions itself as an exceptional and dedicated wireline voice and data company that delivers highly-innovative total communications solutions for its customers.

The key visual element of Innove's corporate logo is the integration of a stylized looping line, with the loop forming the 'O' of Innove. The stylized loop is derived from the symbol for a fiber optic connection in telecommunications diagrams, optical fiber being a technology that can carry near limitless network capacity.

The stylized loop can be rendered in three different colors: blue, green and orange. These are the colors of Innove's parent company Globe Telecom, Innove's consumer brand Globelines, and Innove's corporate brand GlobeQUEST, respectively. Having the flexibility to render the loop in different colors further symbolizes the flexibility, creativity and customer focus that are at the heart of the new organization.

inn ve
COMMUNICATIONS

inn ve
COMMUNICATIONS

inn ve
COMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]NE DATES

June 27, 2001 – Ayala Corporation, Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telekom sign the definite notice to proceed with the all-stock transaction, making Islacom a full subsidiary of Globe

May 26, 2003 – Globe and Islacom file a joint application with the National Telecommunications Commission for authority to sell and transfer Globe Telecom's local exchange carrier (LEC) and wireline data services to Islacom

August 7, 2003 – the NTC under NTC Case No. 2003-077 approves the legal transfer of Globe's wireline business, authorizations, properties, assets and obligations to Islacom

August 22, 2003 – the NTC decision becomes final and executory

August 25, 2003 – the Securities and Exchange Commission approves the change in name from Isla Communications Co., Inc. to Innove Communications, Inc.

October 1, 2003 – Globe consolidates all of its wireline businesses into Innove

October 7, 2003 - Innove is formally launched in Metro Manila

ALCATEL

CISCO
Powered Network

commVerge
SOLUTIONS

EMC²
where information lives

MES

My warmest greetings to Globe Telecom on the launching of the newly formed subsidiary called Innove Communications, Inc. The introduction of Globe Telecom's new subsidiary to focus on the wireline business is a welcome feat for the numerous users of wireline voice and data services in the country. With this development, businesses and individuals alike can look forward to having their needs taken cared of by a strong new partner working for them. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) recognizes this development as an exciting opportunity and a dynamic change in the wireline telecommunications industry of the country. I wish for the success of Globe Telecom and Innove Communications as they continue to contribute to a progressive telecommunications industry. *Mabuhay!*

Hon. Leandro R. Mendoza
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

Congratulations to Innove Communications on the occasion of the company's launching. This is another milestone in the local telecommunications industry where we are presented with a strongly-formed entrant that will soon be making its own distinct mark in Philippine telecoms. Innove is a welcome addition to our fast-paced, growing industry and I expect a lot of good things to come both from Innove and its parent company, Globe Telecom. I am sure that our increasingly sophisticated Filipino users will be the primary beneficiaries of this new development. More power to Innove Communications and Globe Telecom!

Hon. Armi Jane R. Borje
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

In our industry, innovation is the key to success. This is the foundation on which we have built our businesses and it is on this premise that we are launching a new company devoted to wireline services. As a subsidiary of Globe Telecom, Innove Communications will benefit from the experience, competency and track record of innovation and excellence that has defined Globe's success over the years. Working closely with Globe, we expect Innove to be a driving force in the development of the wireline communications industry as it strives to meet the many challenges of the future.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
Chairman
Globe Telecom

As Globe Telecom's new subsidiary in serving voice, private data network, and Internet needs of individuals and enterprises in the Philippines, Innove Communications aims to achieve a stronger competitive position for its various wireline services, amidst today's market challenges. This expanded and focused company signals our renewed commitment to innovation, customer focus and operational excellence. Complementing the wireless services of Globe Telecom, Innove will respond to the specialized demands of wireline customers. Through this we can bring higher-levels of service at a wider geographic coverage, integrated voice and data solutions, and a focused approach to satisfying corporate and consumer communication needs.

Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.
Chairman, Innove Communications, Inc.
President and Chief Executive Officer, Globe Telecom

The country's wireline business segment is increasingly becoming different and specialized, and this is where Innove Communications comes in. Fully-supported by its parent company Globe Telecom, Innove enters as a strong player in the telecommunications industry integrating voice, data and Internet network resources. This gives Innove the ability to be more customer-centric, to act fast, and to be more flexible for its wireline customers. Innove also has a unique starting point, as it is a single, financially-strong wireline company in the Philippines that has the ability to use its own cash flow for further wireline investments and expansion. With Innove, we are moving beyond the status quo. We are positioned to succeed.

Gil B. Genio
Chief Executive Officer
Innove Communications, Inc.

BUILDING IN WIRELINE BUSINESS

Today's telecommunications providers face significant challenges as they compete in an increasingly unpredictable and dynamic voice and data market. What customers need is a high-performance access network that can provide fast, efficient, affordable services. Innove Communications, Inc. can do all these as it boasts of having the biggest Internet backbone in the Philippines among local carriers.

Innove's Internet backbone is fast reaching the one gigabit per second (Gbps) mark, allowing it to handle higher data traffic to and from the Philippines and various international destinations like the United States, thereby, resulting in lower probability of congestion and failure.

Innove, a 100% subsidiary of Globe Telecom, now houses the GlobeQUEST and Globelines brands, and is dedicated to providing high-capacity, highly-reliable, low cost, low latency service to its customers. Innove is taking steps to enhance and differentiate its network to meet customer demands for integrated services, greater bandwidth and rapid service deployment.

"Innove has nationwide access and backbone network that could easily carry its own traffic as well as that of its corporate clients. It is built with redundancy to be robust and resilient to catastrophic failures. This network supports both voice and data," said Peter C. Tan, Head of GlobeQUEST Data Access Network.

The underlying foundation that supports Innove's initiatives is the superior network that its mother company, Globe Telecom, has built. Globe operates a vast domestic and international transmission network.

Innove utilizes Globe's Fiber Optic Backbone Network (FOBN) which complements its existing SDH microwave radio backbone and capacity ownership in Telicphil. FOBN answers the need for route diversity, offers reliability, and superior service quality, as well as provides the flexibility needed for future technologies. FOBN is designed to connect the major transmission nodes of Makati, Cebu and Iligan through a combination of submarine and land fiber optic systems extending to more than 1,300 kilometers.

Innove's superior and state-of-the-art network is run by a host of dedicated and highly-competent technical team. GlobeQUEST, for instance, has 27 Cisco Certified Network Administrators (CCNAs), nine Cisco Certified Network Professionals (CCNPs), and five candidates for Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert (CCIEs). This means that GlobeQUEST has joined the elite ranks of world-class networking experts, giving it a competitive advantage in delivering quality service and support to corporate clients.

"Moving forward, we will continue to reengineer and redesign the network to meet the ever-changing needs of corporate clients such as high availability, high reliability, and new products and services. We will make sure that we are always one step ahead of competition," Mr. Tan added.

Meanwhile, Globelines boasts of an extensive access network that covers and provides landline service not only to major cities and municipalities but also to remote towns and barangays in its service areas. "Its network includes about 30 fully-digital switching exchanges, digital loop carrier and copper last mile in major parts of the NCR, Cavite, Batangas and all of Visayas, plus 120 wireless local loop stations and scores of transmission relay stations," said Ramon C. Aesquivel, Head of Globelines Network Management and Operations.

The Network Management Center allows Innove to monitor its entire network from a single location.

SERVING VOICE AND DATA NEEDS THROUGH Globelines AND GlobeQUEST

Well-positioned to serve the advancing needs of its customers, Innove Communications has unified its wireline voice and data services with its customers in mind. Innove takes the role of an exceptional and dedicated technology provider for home and business requirements by offering Globelines voice services and GlobeQUEST data solutions.

Innove's landline service, Globelines, has a lot in store for its subscribers with its host of advanced value-added services. Among others, Globelines' features allow subscribers to know the identity of callers, put them on hold, talk to two other callers simultaneously, forward calls to other numbers, get two different numbers and ringtones for one line, have voice messaging capabilities and send text messages to Globe Handyphone users.

In addition, a popular Globelines feature is the Globelines Dial-up Internet. Available to Globelines post-paid and pre-paid, the Globelines Dial-up Internet is a convenient service that combines landline and Internet applications in one line. Also offered in select areas is Globelines DSL, a high-speed home Internet service that allows residential customers to make calls and surf the web simultaneously via one telephone line. Other advanced services include Business Plus, a features-packed yet cost-effective telephone system that lets clients enjoy big business efficiency on a small business overhead.

Offered in both post-paid and pre-paid services, Globelines is available nationwide in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Its service areas are in the National Capital Region, Cavite, Batangas, Mindoro Oriental, Region 12 in Mindanao and the Visayas. Globelines also maintains a payphones service within its service areas. In serving its subscribers, Globelines has a network of 34 Globelines Payments and Services in its service areas across the country. The centers aim to provide Globelines subscribers with dedicated service as well as convenient sales, payment and customer service facilities.

GlobeQUEST, on the other hand, is Innove's Internet and data arm that features a wide range of data services. GlobeQUEST Private Networks is a range of multi-service network solutions that combine advanced technology with unmatched quality service. GlobeQUEST Broadband Internet offers businesses a complete line of Internet services offered in different packages to fit the varying needs of enterprises. Whether in the office, at home or in public areas where wireless-fidelity (Wi-Fi) technology is available, GlobeQUEST users can enjoy broadband speeds seamlessly.

GlobeQUEST Broadband Access offers clients ultra high-speed connections for large network users, allowing multiple interfaces such as Gigabit Ethernet, ESCON and fiber channel. For corporate users requiring end-to-end management, GlobeQUEST DataCentres provide users with the necessary infrastructure and technology to house mission-critical information and applications in a secure carrier-grade DataCentre, staffed and supported by a team of IT experts.

GlobeQUEST Corporate Voice enables users to access advanced audio and video conferencing technology to communicate from multiple locations within the Philippines and abroad. Corporations will be able to use the same bandwidth for both voice and data, allowing greater cost efficiencies.

FUJITSU
hp invent
Lucent Technologies
RAD data communications

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 301
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Groggy

EDITORIAL

MORE than two months after the Oakwood mutiny, President Macapagal-Arroyo must still be feeling groggy or punch-drunk. Or how else explain her decision to recycle former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and former chief of military intelligence Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus?

Last week, the President swore in Reyes as "ambassador for counterterrorism," a position that was very obviously invented for him. On the same day, Corpus took over as chief of the AFP's Civil Relations Service, which puts him in charge of the government's psy-war efforts.

The two had earlier resigned in the wake of charges hurled by the Magdalo rebels that they were behind the series of bombings in Davao earlier this year. The mutineers also accused Reyes of selling arms and ammunitions to various rebel groups. Reyes also became the subject of a lifestyle check by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission after stories came out in the media that he was building a P10-million house.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida defended the new appointments by saying everyone should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. That is, of course, a fair constitutional principle that should be strictly adhered to by our courts of law. But the President is not a judge and Malacañang is not a court. Will Calida invoke that same principle if a suspected drug lord were to be appointed to a key post in an agency tasked to combat the trade in illegal drugs? And yet here we have Reyes, who has been accused by some junior military officers of abetting a rebellion and masterminding certain acts of terrorism, being assigned to the forefront of the fight against terrorism, or at least that is what Malacañang made it appear with the creation of his new and ill-defined position.

What is even more confusing is that on the very same day Reyes and Corpus assumed their new positions, the President announced the creation of a fact-finding commission, chaired by a Catholic priest, Fr. Pedro Maniwang, to investigate the Davao bombings.

The President's incongruous actuations—first, accepting Reyes' and Corpus' resignations, then returning them to the government service, and at the same time forming a fact-finding commission to investigate allegations of their terrorist tendencies—are puzzling. The kindest thing one can say about them is that she failed to see their disturbing implications.

If Reyes and Corpus are so indispensable, why did she accept their resignations in the first place? In appointing Reyes and Corpus to new positions, Ms Macapagal practically affirmed her confidence not only in their competence but also in their innocence as regards the charges leveled against them. So what is there left for the commission to investigate?

Is this all for show as some of the President's critics have charged? Or is this merely an attempt to mollify the significant number of Filipinos who consider as valid the grievances articulated by the mutineers?

Maniwang and the other members of the commission should seek a clarification from the President. Unless they know something that the public doesn't know, they must be just as confused as the next man by her mixed signals. Better yet, if their investigation will lead them nowhere, as it looks right now, they should just ask to be relieved of the assignment.

Blackouts

FOREIGN COMMENT

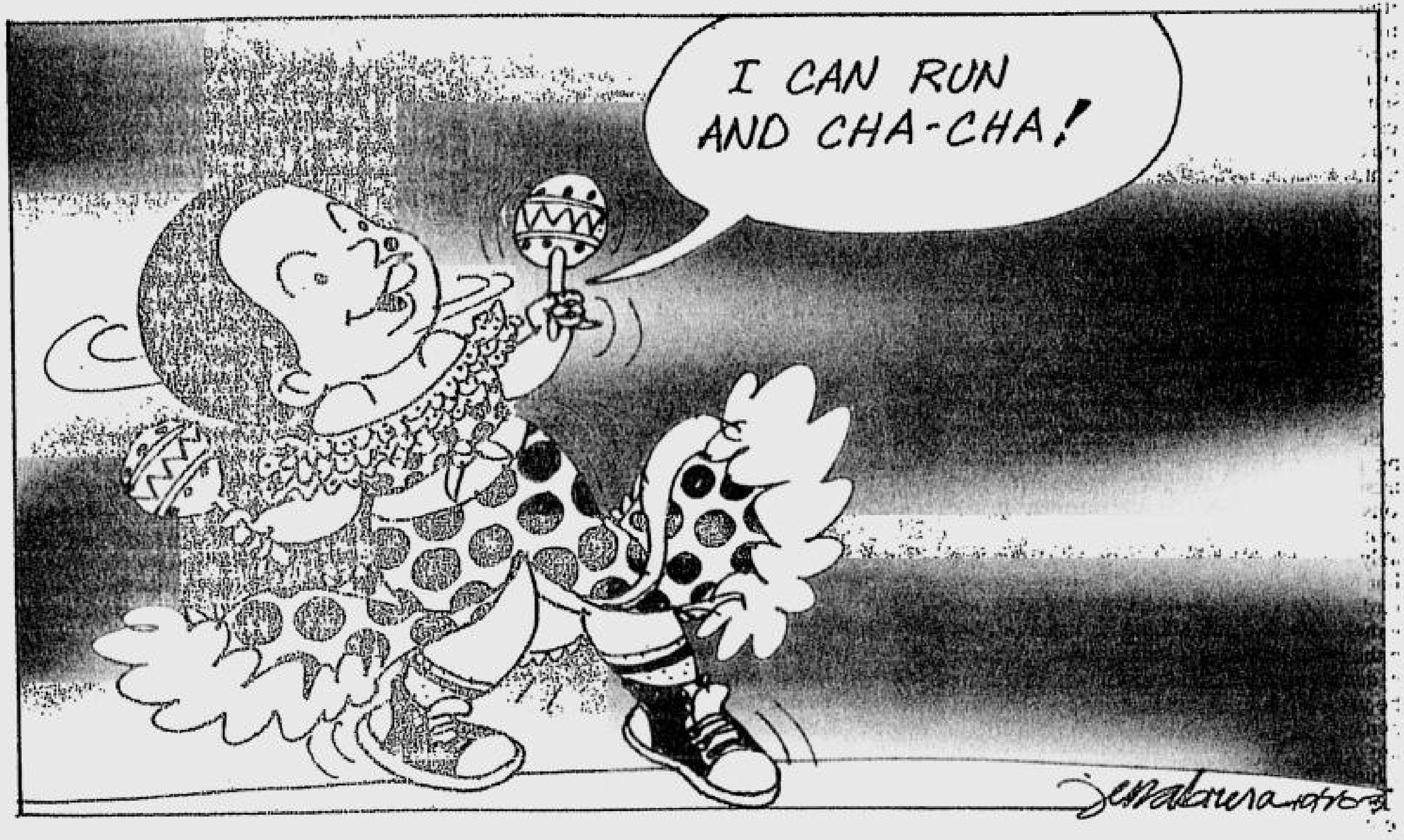
IT'S almost enough to make one believe it was more than coincidental. Over the weekend, Italy, last week Sweden and Denmark, in late August London, in mid-August large parts of the United States and Canada.

Millions without electricity.

So far, nothing has indicated that the power failures were due to sabotage or terrorism, but they certainly show how vulnerable our modern society is. And none of the power failures occurred under extreme weather. Local bad weather is something nationwide electricity networks have to be able to stand.

Is privatization compromising security? Is the power network out of date? Are better emergency solutions needed? The questions are many, and the answers must be found.

Aftenbladet, Stavanger, Norway


I CAN RUN AND CHA-CHA!

'Palabra de honor'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PALABRA de honor. Word of honor.

This is any commitment which Filipinos, from our forefathers to the present, hold sacred. A man's honor goes with his word. Violate it and he loses not only his own honor, but also that of his family. Descendants honor the commitments and pay for the debts of their parents and grandparents to preserve family honor.

We have another saying in Filipino: "*Itaga mo sa bato*," which means "etched in stone" like the Ten Commandments. It means the promise cannot be broken. This is the unwritten law and tradition that governs Philippine society. It seals contracts not with papers, but with words, which in many honorable societies are more binding than signed documents.

That was the way it was with our forebears, and that is the way it is today in polite society, rich or poor. That is what enables the Indian money lender to transact business. He lends money to a total stranger on the strength of the borrower's word that he would pay with interest the next day or the next week. And sure enough, when the lender returns, he gets the money.

Honor is strongest, ironically, among the poor. After all, that is the only thing they have. *Sari-sari* storeowners trust their wares to customers on credit, with the amounts listed only on pieces of papers or on the walls of the store.

Even gamblers and drunkards, supposedly among the dregs of society, have words of honor. There is no alcoholic who becomes so drunk he forgets what he owes the store in liquor. Cockfight *aficionados* pay their losing bets without equivocation although the *cristo* holds no written bet or promissory note whatsoever. They make the bets and honor them on mere hand signals. Nobody ever runs away from a losing bet. To do so would be dishonorable, and nobody would do business with the welsher anymore.

Even gang members have words of honor. Mafia members, for example, are punctilious about keeping their word, even if it is a matter of life and death. You have heard of the Mafia's code of silence. In short, a person's word of honor is more important than life itself. Even supposed dregs of society honor it.

So why does the leader of a nation not have it? Not having any *palabra de honor* is so un-Filipino. So why does the topmost official of our country not have it?

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo didn't have to promise early in her term that she wouldn't run for a second term. Everybody would have assumed she would, even if she had not said anything. So why did she make the vow if she had not intended to keep it?

I had always assumed that she really had had enough of the presidency. After all, it is a thankless job. No president can solve in one term all the nation's problems. And who would want to stay a minute longer in the snake pit that is Malacañang? What would a president get by staying in Malacañang if he didn't intend to steal? The pay is not much. Everybody criticizes you. You can't solve all the problems of the nation. You can be charged, impeached and imprisoned. You have no privacy. Why would anybody with any common sense want to be president if he had no intention of enriching himself?

So I thought President Macapagal-Arroyo is the first Filipino President with the gift of common sense. Eschew any reelection, like Cory Aquino, and she would be regarded as a stateswoman, remembered by history. Run for reelection and she could suffer a defeat, as all but one of past presidents did. What a loss of face it would be!

So I thought President Macapagal-Arroyo was sincere, really wanted to relax in peace and quiet, and be remembered well by history. I thought it was her husband, who would be nobody without her, and her legion of subordinates and advisers, who would be jobless when she is no longer President, who were pressuring her to run again.

But as it turned out, I was wrong. She herself claimed nobody pressured her. She decided it all by herself. Probably because she never really had any intention of retiring. She probably promised not to run again only to quiet the criticisms against her administration. It worked. Until she broke her word. Until she showed that there could have been malicious intent when she first made the promise. She fooled the people.

* * *

But I think it was not her fault. There was a force more powerful than will power that made her do it. I think it is genes.

President Macapagal is merely following the footsteps of her father, President Diosdado Macapagal. She is doing exactly what her father did to become president.

When he was Vice President, Cong Dadong did nothing but travel all over the islands to shake hands, on the theory that the more hands a candidate shakes, the more votes he will get. That is what Gloria the daughter is doing now.

To get the presidential nomination of the Liberal Party then being contested by Ferdinand Marcos, Cong Dadong promised not to run for reelection. Then he broke his promise and ran for reelection anyway. That's what Gloria just did. Cong Dadong traveled to remote places to shake more hands while he campaigned for reelection. That's what Gloria is doing and will be doing until the elections. She learned from the example of her father.

But Cong Dadong was defeated in his reelection bid. Will his daughter also suffer the same fate?

Coming back to haunt

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SEVERAL things were wrong in the way Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared her intention to run.

First off, it was aired in Channels 4, 12 and 13. Those were the channels that used to air Ferdinand Marcos' political circuses during the twilight of martial law, when he had become hugely unpopular only the crony stations continued to patronize him. I surfed through the other stations last Saturday, and they were busy airing their usual programs, unperturbed by the things that were happening north of Manila. As far as the major stations were concerned, it was a non-event.

The sensation of the twilight years of Marcos was deepened by the fact that GMA strutted in Pampanga, her personal heartland, instead of the Luneta, the country's emotional capital. That was what Marcos did shortly before he was overthrown. He tried to counter the swelling tide of opposition against him by trotting out Ilocano support. Unable to gather crowds for his crumbling rule at the Luneta, he relied on fellow Ilocanos to project a "solid north." Most Ilocanos did so quite willingly. To this day, they continue to deem him the greatest Filipino that ever lived, schoolchildren lining the streets with pennants during his birthday. I'm not sure the Mekenis did so just as willingly last Saturday.

It did not do them proud, in any case. Not least, it drove home the point about why corruption thrives in this country, which is our leaders' inability to think of the country because family and friends come first. The principle remained: (S)he may be an SOB, but (s)he is our SOB. The rally talked of country, national interest and public welfare, but the setting refuted it. It wasn't about everyone, it was about we and they, *tayo* and *sila*.

There were repeated references to GMA's father, Diosdado, but I don't know if that helped. At the very least, it reminded the world of the existence of a very small road named after him that cost a very large sum, hardly a thing one associates with the "poor boy from Lubao." At the very most, it reminded an older generation not of the elections of 1961, when Diosdado ran for the first time and stole the thunder from Carlos P. Garcia, but of 1965, when he ran for a second time and lost to Ferdinand Marcos. The slogan Marcos' camp used then to lethal effect was, "*Alis dyan*!" I wouldn't be surprised if someone took it in his head to revive it.

A *Kapampangan* friend of mine pointed out to me one more thing. For many years, he said, the *Kapampangans* have tried to live down a reputation for duplicity and betrayal, a reputation established by a *Kapampangan* executing Andres Bonifacio and the Makabebes helping the Americans massacre fellow Filipinos during their occupation. And now comes someone using the *Kapampangans* to mount another act of duplicity and betrayal, to break a vow in their name.

That brings me to the heart of what was wrong with last Saturday's exercise. That was GMA's stated reason for changing her mind.

I've always been curious about what excuse GMA would offer. I've had no doubt she would run: I could have made some money except that no one would accept my wager even at odds of five to one. The only thing people would bet on was what reasons she would cite. Invoking God took on a sour note over the last few weeks, even bishops cringing at it. The tack GMA finally took was that it wasn't anybody's decision but her own. She was turning her back on her word because she was compelled to do so by the needs of the country. She did not want to, but she was willing to make the sacrifice.

As far as the upper and middle classes go, I can't see anyone buying it. My cell phone wa hyperactive last Saturday with people textin incensed reactions. Someone wrote furiousl "*Ngayon utang na loob pa natin 'yan sa kany* (Now, we owe her a debt of gratitude for running)!" "*Kawawa naman s'ya*," another wrot sarcastically, "*pagod na pagod na pero hinc tayo maiwanan* (Pity her, she's so tired but sh cannot leave us)!"

Some people are good *artistas*, and can pu things like that off, others are not. Erap coul lie through his teeth and sound sincer "*Walang kama-kamaganak, walang kai-kaibigan*": To this day, it carries a stentorian rin GMA could tell the truth and still sound insincere. That has been her problem from Da One, a lack of credibility, and the fact that sh wore her ambition with the showiness of, well a *Kapampangan*. So my self-deprecating *Kapampagan* friends tell me.

Some months ago, someone showe tremendous foresight about what would happen if GMA ran, and warned:

"We know that we will soon enter the political period leading up to the elections i 2004.... The 2004 election may well go dow in history as among our most bitterly conteste elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have. I this is true, then sincere efforts to launch programs will run the risk of being derailed by political fighting leading up to the elections. Th government in place after 2004 may merel end up inheriting a country as deeply divide as ever. Consequently, we may end up stallin national growth for a few years more as a result of lost momentum.... If (GMA) were t run, it will require a major political effort But since (she is) among the principal figur in the divisive national events for the last tw or three years, (her) political efforts can onl result in never-ending divisiveness."

The person who said that on Dec. 30, 200 Rizal Day, was GMA herself.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Is 'Noli Boy' running?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NOW that the President has declared that she's running in 2004, the question being asked is, with whom? Reports quoted Palace sources as saying that two Visayan leaders, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, are being considered so as to have a traditional north-south tandem. But there are other reports saying that GMA's leaders are trying to convince Sen. Noli de Castro to run with her, guided doubtless by the recent SWS survey putting him at the top of vice presidential preferences, with 37 percent. Political pundits opine that he would be a strong asset for GMA since he has consistently topped the surveys.

The possibility of "Noli Boy" (as he's known to his adoring masses) running for vice president is said to be giving Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda sleepless nights. The difference of 15 percentage points between them in the latest SWS survey translates into about 4.5 million votes. *Pagtumakbo si* De Castro, Legarda would be walloped.

* * *

But there are also rumors that De Castro is being pressured by various quarters to run for president himself, again doubtless buoyed by his consistent showing in surveys as the No. 1 preference for the top post. The opposition is desperately shopping for a presidential candidate now that Nationalist People's Coalition founder Eduardo Cojuangco appears to have dropped out of the contest and Sen. Panfilo Lacson is slipping in the ratings owing to his engaging in a politics of destruction and mud-slinging. There's also the pressure from some independent businessmen as well as from the Lopezes of ABS-CBN for him to run for president, with Legarda possibly as his running mate.

So strong is the pressure on De Castro that he even went on a pilgrimage to the Virgin Mary's shrine in Lourdes, France, to pray for discernment while President Macapagal-Arroyo was in Paris to address the Unesco conference. De Castro has consistently disavowed any desire to run for higher office at this time, but the fluid political situation makes it hard to close the door on anything.

* * *

Last Friday afternoon, I sat down at the Manila Polo Club with another declared presidential candidate, Raul Roco, the favorite son of Bicolandia (which gave him almost 70 percent of its votes in 1998) and a member of his staff, Bobbi de Guzman. He has been terribly quiet for several months, making people wonder if he's still running. I had earlier suspected that Roco was keeping quiet and hoping that if GMA did not run, she and Lakas would anoint him. He said the hope was there, but he also quoted Napoleon's dictum saying, "When the generals are quarrelling, why interrupt?"

Now that GMA has declared that she is running, he said, "I have fired the opening salvo" by asserting that the country "cannot have six more years of GMA, in fact not even six months." Queried on his calling card for the presidency, he pointed to his record as No. 1 legislator for five years in the 8th Congress, according to a UP study funded by Ford, and his administrative record in the Department of Education which by October 2001 had become the "most trusted and least corrupt" department in the government.

* * *

An hour earlier, Roco held a press conference to say he would never run as GMA's vice presidential candidate, despite recent attempts of former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña and former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa to convince him to do so. A GMA-Roco team up is considered very strong, and reports say that even former President Ramos is going to try to talk him into accepting the offer. *May pag-asa bang mag-team up kayo?* I asked him again, citing pundits' views that it would be a tragedy if GMA and Roco would eat into each other's votes, thus allowing a third candidate like Lacson or FPJ to squeeze through. "I never revisit my decisions," he stressed, adding that if they teamed up, they would both lose "because GMA can't win and the surveys show that people want me more as president than vice president."

* * *

Roco said he has been organizing his volunteers since February and now they number 25,000 under Myrna Paguio. There are also dozens of "Lawyers for Roco" with IBP's Art Lim as chair (target is 1,600 lawyers) and many "Doctors for Roco." Several weeks ago, 8,000 women showed up at the PICC to express support for this "honorary woman." His camp claims to have some 85,000 "Aksyon Kabataan for Roco" from the nation's college kids and is targeting 350,000 to man the voting precincts all over the country. He also claims to have the support of 50 members of the 8th Congress where he served ("the most idealistic Congress") and about 10 in the current Congress.

Roco, with his folksy ways, sharp intellect and ability to sum up issues very simply, is conceded to have long captured the attention of many of the country's youth. There's also no question about his grassroots appeal which has put him consistently among the top preferences in various surveys. In the 1998 elections, he placed third after Joseph Estrada and Jose de Venecia despite his lack of money and machinery. Still, organization and logistics are essential in politics. His big problem is to show that he can translate his popularity into votes; otherwise funding won't come. This is especially acute since his major opponent, GMA, is close on his heels (17 percent in the recent SWS survey vs. 20 for Roco) and as the President, she commands the awesome resources as well as the support of the biggest political party. "In 1998 we were guerrillas conducting an electoral campaign," Roco mused. So, much like the Vietcongs, I quipped, versus today's "Vietminh regulars."

Thailand's example

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—Soon after setting up the national family planning program of Thailand, said Thai Sen. Mechai Viravaidya in his keynote address at the opening of the Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health, he decided that "government would need to get everybody involved" if the program were to effectively reach Thais of all economic backgrounds all over the country. So the senator, better known around the world as "Mechai the Condom King," involved not just health personnel, such as doctors, nurses and midwives, but also community "influentials" like monks and public school teachers, seamstresses and beauticians (who gave discounts to customers buying family planning supplies from them), vendors, police and even gas station attendants.

During launchings at the village level, the monks offered to bless the contraceptive supplies, reasoning that since they were asked to bless homes, cars and even appliances, they saw no reason why they shouldn't be blessing contraceptives when these were important for the people's health. "An unexpected reaction from the women," confided Mechai, was that "the women began saying 'No wonder we experience no side-effects, our pills have been blessed!'"

Mechai also worked with school teachers to integrate family planning messages into their lessons. Says Mechai: "The teachers composed new words to folk songs that told the people about the advantages of smaller families, and we asked them to include family planning words when teaching the alphabet, such as 'C is for condoms.' These same children, 30 years later, are the adults planning their families and bringing down the population growth rate of Thailand."

Indeed, as Mechai pointed out, in the 1970s the average family in Thailand had seven children, and the population growth rate stood at 3.3 percent, about the same as the Philippines'. "Today, the average family size has gone down to 1.6 children, with a population growth rate of 0.3 percent." He was too polite to add, though the Filipino delegates were well aware of it, that while Thailand made impressive gains in its population programs, the Philippines today is still burdened by a population growth rate of 2.3 percent.

* * *

BUT Mechai wasn't above pointing out that "while certain countries decided to rely on God, we Thais decided we should rely on ourselves."

Thailand's aggressive and unconventional approach to the promotion of family planning evolved out of both deliberate planning and the gathering of feedback from ordinary people. "There are too many people with PhD's in reproductive health," he joked. "What government should do more of is to talk to ordinary people because they know exactly what they need."

As for his mass-market approach to family planning, and the involvement of non-traditional "actors" as promoters and workers in the field, which proved very successful, Mechai says one lesson to be gathered from the experience is: "Don't be so disciplined." Officials and program implementers, he said, shouldn't feel the need to go through the bureaucratic maze to get their programs approved, because chances are, the nature of the bureaucracy being what it is, the programs will have lost their "edge" by the time officials approve it.

"Tell them about it afterwards," was his advice. "It's easier to ask for forgiveness rather than for permission."

* * *

MECHAI got the nickname "Mr. Condom" because he used the condom as the symbol of his entire campaign to convince Thais about the need for family planning. The condom was a very potent and controversial symbol, and roused immediate curiosity and recognition.

"Don't listen to silly people embarrassed by rubber," he advised the audience at the plenary. "The condom is clean unless your mind is dirty."

Thus he didn't hesitate to promote condom use even among elementary-age children, who used the condoms as balloons. On the streets of Bangkok and other cities, policemen routinely give out free condoms to drivers when traffic is at a standstill, a program that Mechai calls "cops and rubbers." And when Thailand hosts the World AIDS Conference next year, he hopes to have immigration officers "slipping travelers a condom along with their papers."

Condom-use promotion was especially important in Thailand given the initial explosion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic there. Though the problem was grim and frightening, Mechai believed the best approach was a lighthearted one, working to raise public awareness of the issue through canny use of the media and public events.

Thus, Thailand launched AIDS information campaigns with movie stars as spokespersons and advocates. Again, various sectors of society got on board, with police, religious leaders and the mass media playing important roles in educating the public about safer sex and other means of preventing the transmission of HIV.

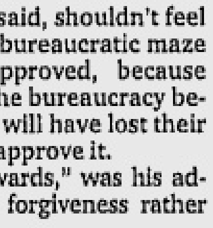
They even have a living mascot called "Captain Condom" and a "Miss Condom" search to promote condom use. In fact, Mechai invited the participants to join them on "Condom Night" on Thursday, to help select "Miss Condom Asia Pacific."

* * *

MECHAI may have had his audience in stitches during his address, but behind all the puns and jokes were very serious lessons on how the political will of leaders needs to be harnessed to promote not just family planning and smaller families, but also healthier lives and a more compassionate society.

Thailand succeeded in slowing down its population growth and in stemming the alarming rate of new HIV infections not just because it has a Mechai, but also because the nation's leaders refused to be cowed by conservative forces or hypocritical attitudes. They simply went ahead and did what needed to be done.

Certain e-mails



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT'S sometimes a pleasure to be proven wrong (well, half-wrong in this case), especially in matters that pertain to landmarks that we thought have already been destroyed, the victims of unchecked and unplanned urban development. Here's an e-mail from Dr. Jose Maria Alcasid confirming the existence of Enchanted Lake or what must have also been called "*Lago Encantado*."

"In your recent column 'Realities of our time,' you made reference to a lake near Los Baños called *Lagunita de Socol*. As a boy in the late '60s, I do remember frequenting a lake in Barrio Sucol near the border of Calamba and Los Baños called Enchanted or Alligator Lake. Your description fits it well. The property used to belong to the Nubla family (I don't know if it still is) and can be accessed from the main highway. I hope this information helps."

Mr. Rafaelito Minguez also wrote to inform us that "the same lake was described in great detail by Paul De La Gironiere in pages 188-192 of his book, 'Twenty Years in the Philippines,' which was published in 1854. He called the lake, 'Socolme Lake.' Curious to find out where this lake is now, I had previously asked a few people from Los Baños. It helped that my wife was from Los Baños. They were unanimous in telling me that the description fits exactly what residents now call 'Crocodile Lake.' This is a circular lake in the vicinity of the Pansol, Calamba and Los Baños boundary. It is located near Laguna de Bay. I have not gone to the lake itself but have seen it from a distance. I am told that the lake is now occupied by squatters. Also, that a land developer/contractor had done quarrying work causing further damage to the lake."

Mr. Minguez noted "some references to the same lake in John Foreman's book, 'Philippine Islands' (page 422), which was published in 1899. Interestingly, he identified the lake as '*Laguna de Caimanes*' or 'Crocodile Lake.'" He has kindly forwarded an old picture of the lake, which he hopes will make us realize what we have lost. On the other hand, it makes me wonder, what will it take to wake us up?

Here's another e-mail entitled "Spanish in the Work Place" which hopefully will bring some humor into our rather grim existence of coups, endless investigations, rumors and scandals which could likely land more entertainers in the Philippine Senate, regardless of whether they are qualified or not.

* * *

Travelers to the west coast of the United States have noticed the marked changes that have taken place there the past two decades. It's not only that there are now so many more people from Mexico and other Latin countries out there so that signboards with such message as "English spoken here" have become a common sight. The atmosphere is different somehow: a standing joke is that the Mexicans are taking over what was really theirs anyway and that includes Texas and New Mexico. In a town in Connecticut, Peruvians are being hired to construct beautifully hewn stone fences that resemble the walls of their pyramids, and Miami is jokingly referred to as an extension of Cuba.

Because of the Affirmative Action Law, a certain percentage of the so-called minorities have to be hired. Consequently, the language at work places is undergoing changes as well. While the following no doubt is meant as a joke, there is probably some truth to it. For explanations and translations, please ask the nearest "*Coño*" kid in your circle of acquaintances.

"Unprofessional Spanish Speaking at the Office

"Several visitors to our office have brought to our attention that employees commonly use offensive language. Such behavior, in addition to violating firm practices, is highly offensive both to visitors and employees, and will not be tolerated. Therefore, we have decided to implement a series of rules in our office and would expect them to be applied. It is expected that ALL employees immediately adhere to these rules:

"1-Words like *coño*, *carajo* and other such expressions will not be used for emphasis, no matter how heated the discussion may get.

"2-Non-important matters should not be addressed to as *pendejadas*.

"3-You will not say *la cagó* when someone makes a mistake, or *se cagó en su madre* if you see someone being reprimanded. All forms and derivatives of the word *cagar* are inappropriate in our environment.

"4-Lack of determination will not be referred to as *falta de cojones* or *mariconerías*, nor will a person with lack of initiative be referred to as *pendejo*, *mamao* or *comemierda*.

"5-No Manager or Supervisor, under any circumstances, will be referred to as *hijo de puta*, *ese cabrón*, or *ese maricón*.

"6-When a good proposal is presented, the term *esto está de pinga* must not be used.

"7-Unusual or creative brainstorming meetings will not be referred to as *pajas mentales*.

"8-Do not say *como jode* if a person is persistent, or *se jodió* if somebody is going through a difficult situation. Furthermore, you must not say que *jodienda* or *esto está de'l joyo* when matters become complicated in your line of work.

"9-When asking someone to leave you alone, you should not say *vete pa'l carajo*, nor will you substitute *¿qué carajo quieres?* for "May I help you?"

"10-When leaving the office, using the term *me voy pa'l carajo* is not proper.

"11-When any office equipment fails, it must be reported as "It broke down", not *se descojonó*, or *se jodió la mierda ésta*.

"12-Last but not least, after reading this memo, please do not say *me voy a limpiar el culo con esto*. Just keep it clean and file properly.

"Thank you for your cooperation
"MANAGEMENT"

A coffee story

YOUNG BLOOD

Iris Sheila G. Crisostomo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

BEING single and employed, I have been living on the fast lane for the past seven years. As the number of single young professionals continues to swell, I am surprised that members of my age group (late 20s up to early 30s) seem to be as restless as their younger counterparts (18 up to early 20s). No one seems to be in a hurry to get married (perhaps because of the absence of a prospective partner; or perhaps because they simply enjoy their independence). Single people want to live away from home—in pads, holes or any space wide enough to fit a bed and some things in. There is always something out there that entices, draws and prods one to get involved: movies, concerts, parties, out-of-town conferences, retreats, prayer meetings, fund drives, gym sessions, sports, etc. If caught by friends at home, one is suspected of being ill or nursing a broken heart. Even weekends hardly leave enough time for rest.

I myself am amazed by my ability to juggle a terribly busy schedule, which normally ends at midnight, leaving my thin body screaming for rest. But to my woe, my eyes often refuse to close themselves to the world even after 30 minutes of non-stop shuffling in bed. Then I would realize that the culprit was a cup of cappuccino taken in the company of friends before we said goodnight.

Coffee. Coffee. Coffee. Young people are drinking coffee to unwind after a freaking long day and relax their agitated nerves. But since when did caffeine have any kind of calming effect?

Times are different now. The world has evolved coffee addicts. "*Kape muna tayo*" or "*Magpakape ka naman*" has become a common invitation for friends to get together. It must be because cafés and coffee shops have sprouted in almost every street corner in the metropolis.

I'm not really much of a coffee drinker. I grew up spending many summer vacations in Lipa, Batangas, my mother's hometown where *kapeng barako* is served like soft drinks. I think the coffee concoction offered in most cafés today is too expensive and too addicting (but I won't refuse a free cup).

A cup of coffee can perk up the morning. It helps keep people on their toes, alive, awake and alert. I know several people who can't live without it. But coffee reminds me most of my Lolo and Lola in Pangao, Lipa City, who earned a living largely from coffee beans and pepper.

They lived in an old house in Pangao, reached only after a long and tedious ride over a dirt road that the local government paved only half of the way. The house still conjures many happy childhood memories: of playing hide and seek under the moonlight, eating steamed rice with *sinaing na tambakol sa palayok* and drinking *kapeng barako*. But as we began to outgrow our playful years, visits to the house became less frequent.

When my Lolo was taken ill, we would go to his bedside and ask if he still remembered us. We knew his eyesight was failing.

One morning, we got a text message saying Lolo was very weak. Our relatives who had visited him said he might not have very long to live.

We drove to Lipa that same afternoon, but before we got there we were informed that Lolo was dead. He was 91.

When we arrived in Pangao, we saw Inay sitting quietly beside his casket. She would remain there almost all throughout the wake, her eyes already drained of tears.

Relatives, friends and acquaintances came to the wake. Food was abundant. *Kapeng barako* flowed like water.

A flashback to our family history: Lolo and Inay were married on Nov. 12, 1934. He was a dashing young man who asked for the hand of a shy *mestiza* who was only in her teens. Their union produced eight children, one of whom died after a lingering illness. Inay took care of the house and the children while my lolo went to work in the fields. They managed to survive the Japanese occupation, with my Lolo dodging Japanese bayonets aimed at his body and Inay avoiding lascivious eyes by coloring her fair skin black with charcoal. Decades later, they had 22 grandchildren and half a dozen great-grandchildren.

When Lolo fell ill, Inay was constantly at his bedside. She cooked for him, spoon-fed him, gave him sponge baths and changed his diapers. When bedsores began to develop, she stopped using disposable diapers. Instead, she used cloth diapers made from her own cotton house dresses, which were soft and comfortable.

I used to see those cloth diapers hanging in the front yard and flapping. They looked old and faded. But I hardly took notice of them, thinking they were rags used for wiping the furniture. When I learned that they were not mere rags but diapers that had been patiently sewn by Inay, I learned a lesson in innovation and most of all in love and faithfulness.

Inay stands almost five feet but a bad case of osteoporosis prevented her from walking upright. There were lines on her face but her eyes remained bright, almost always hopeful. When Lolo was bedridden, she took charge of caring for him, unmindful of her ailment which made her even shorter. She performed all her chores with the diligence of a woman who was newly wed. She washed all his diapers without showing any weariness. I often wondered where her strength came from, but I guess nothing could keep her from fulfilling what she considered as a duty of the heart.

Lolo's death felt like a heavy load. But a feeling of peace and restfulness made the weight a little bit lighter. Most comforting was the thought that Lolo lived life to the fullest and attained peace and rest for his body at God's appointed time. These were all written on Inay's face, which can be described as calm and serene.

After the funeral, we headed back home. It felt like the longest ride we had ever taken. Everyone was tired.

As I lay in my bed that night contemplating the reality that I wouldn't see my Lolo anymore, that I wouldn't see him smile, that I wouldn't feel his fingers fidgeting playfully on my arm, I cried again.

I thought: Tomorrow, my life will return to the fast lane. There will be work on my desk, calls from friends inviting me to watch a movie or see a concert. There will be late-night meetings and dinners. And I probably will be drinking cups of cappuccinos again. But with the coffee will come memories of a beloved old man.

Yuppies my age are probably too preoccupied with their hectic schedules to think of slowing down, to get connected to one's own family ancestry or even to imagine death. They may not even care for as long as they can have a cup of coffee to get them going.

But in all probability, everybody has his own favorite cup of coffee. And he has a coffee story to tell.

Iris Sheila G. Crisostomo, 27, handles the in-house publication of an insurance company.

ECC payments delayed as new reserves are made

THIS refers to the letter to the editor last Sept. 5, 2003 regarding the suspension by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) of Mrs. Juliana C. Padron's husband's Employees' Compensation (EC) pension. We welcome this opportunity to clarify the issue and the problem now confronting the implementation of the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP).

Please be informed that under Presidential Decree No. 626, as amended, otherwise known as the Employees' Compensation Law, the ECP is being implemented by the three government agencies namely: the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) which is the appellate and policy making body; the Social Security System (SSS), which administers the program for private sector employees; and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which administers the program for the public sector.

The payments of ECP benefits are sourced from the contributions of the employers to the State Insurance Fund (SIF), a trust fund that is managed and administered by the GSIS and the SSS for their pensioners.

Unlike the regular GSIS insurance and pension plan where employees pay an employees' share or contribution, the SIF is solely generated from the employers without a single centavo deducted from the workers' pay and exclusively allotted for payment of benefits in the event of work-connected sickness, injury or death.

Since the early 1980's however, the public sector SIF has been suffering huge financial losses due to the fact that payment of EC benefits has overtaken the amount of EC contributions collected. In 1992, the SIF reserves were wiped out and the GSIS, in order to pay all EC claims unilaterally resorted to inter-fund borrowing from its other funds such as Optional Life Insurance Fund (OLIF) and the General Insurance Fund (GIF). Late last year, the GSIS decided to stop its inter-fund borrowing and this led into a serious financial crisis for the SIF resulting in the suspension of the payment of EC benefits.

As a remedial measure, the Employees' Compensation Commission passed ECC Board Resolution No. 02-04-235 on April 11, 2002 increasing the rate of the employers' EC premium contribution from P30 per employee/month to P100 per employee/month in order to restore the viability and solvency of the public sector SIF. Considering however that the government is presently in dire financial straits, there are problems in the imposition and collection of the increased EC contributions. But even if the increased EC contribution rate is faithfully paid by all government agencies, it will take some time to generate enough funds to pay all the claims of EC beneficiaries.

Meantime, the GSIS has established a priority listing of claimants who may be paid their benefits given the actual amounts collected from the different government agencies monthly. Thus, it is possible that some claimants, as in Mrs. Padron's husband's case, are not able to receive their usual monthly claims and this situation may go on for a little more time.

—ELMOR D. JURIDICO, executive director, Employees' Compensation Commission, 3/F ECC Bldg., 355 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Probing the Probe Team

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement that the Pope blessed the country through her should not have been publicized because there is no documentary evidence [that it is true]. That is going by the "logic" behind the ax hanging on the TV program, The Probe Team. Lack of documentary evidence is the reason why the airing of the program's episode on Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino's questionable assets was delayed. It was later aired alright, but the ax started swinging immediately after.

Recently, an exposé on opposition Sen. Ping Lacson's criminal liabilities was aired. The feature was actually prepared when he was still a pro-administration senator of the ousted President Estrada's regime. It was never shown then and the person key to its production mysteriously changed careers. A first person account was all that backed up the episode. No problem about that. It is not for media to give a "conclusive" judgment on matters and issues that may be ventilated in their programs. It is more the role of media to present calculated and balanced news, views, features and data to aid the public with their understanding and analysis of society.

This lifestyle check on Pagcor chair Genuino by media must have been controversial as it came close to linking higher government officials. In this episode, there are unseen hands (definitely powerful) hiding behind the legalese requirements of documentary evidences; while cracking its knuckles to the sound of "or else!" Two years ago, it hid behind the holy cloak in the name of decency and morality, then swung the ax to kill the movie "Live Show."

In one word, the subject here is called censorship—a key ingredient to an ignorant and submissive populace. A portent of tragedy that is a reason to grieve but not to mourn because we have to fight!

—JULIE L. PO, secretary general, Concerned Artists of the Philippines, 65A 10th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

DepEd-media relations on professional level

WE are gratified at the close interest the Philippine Daily Inquirer pays to the Department of Education. We would not have thought that the work schedule of a six-person unit in the department would merit a front-page report.

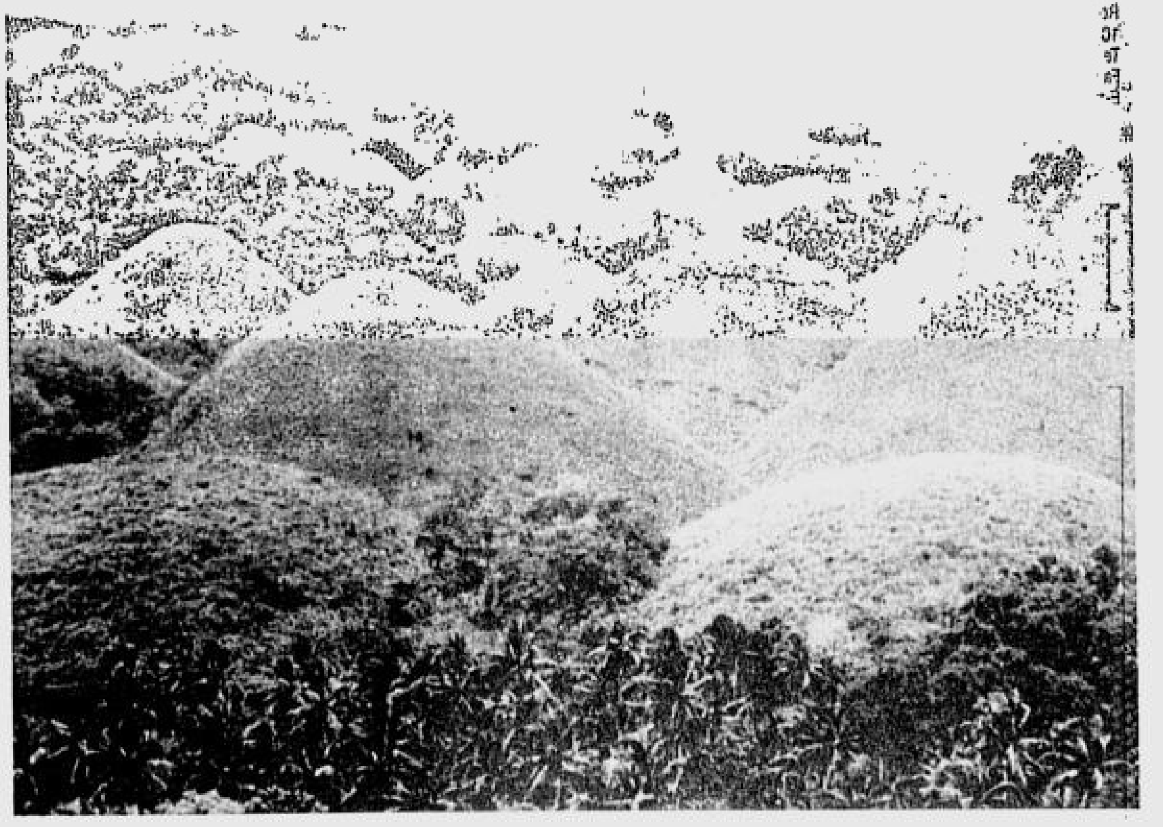
We do want, however, to correct some misrepresentations in the article of Ms Donna Pazzibugan:

1. The staff of the Education and Information Division (EID) do not get blamed for unflattering stories written about DepEd. They do not control what reporters write.

2. The Secretary did not issue an order requiring EID staff to report to work at 5 a.m. What he asked the EID to do was to alert management as early as practicable to newspaper stories that called for a response from the department.

3. The Secretary agreed to a request for a meeting with two DepEd-based reporters last week. There was no "confrontation" regarding stories they had written.

—TEODORO R. CATINDIG, assistant secretary and chief of staff, Department of Education, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City



Let us have clean comfort rooms

"CHOCOLATE Hills (Sorry you can't eat them.)" was the catchy phrase I recently saw in a BBC-World commercial for Bohol, part of the tourism promotion of WOW Philippines. I visited Bohol not so long ago with my Norwegian girlfriend, and we both had a wonderful time even though we were only there for a short stay. Bohol is indeed a beautiful place to visit; there are lots of places to see and things to offer that lure tourists to come back. As a Filipino I was glad and proud to show one of the most beautiful spots of my country.

I have seen, heard and read about the programs of the tourism department to boost the tourism in the Philippines. They are all excellent ideas and well done. Unfortunately, there is one basic need that the tourism department seems to have forgotten—clean comfort rooms, meaning, with functioning flush system and constant supply of tissues. I believe this problem is not only true in Bohol but all over the country—in huge malls, hotels and restaurants, etc. I am quite sure that this frustration is not only experienced by many foreign tourists but also by the local people.

After enjoying the panoramic view from the top of the beautiful and quite soothing Chocolate Hills, and doing the usual tourist rituals like the taking of pictures for souvenirs, my girlfriend and I were hungry and so we hurried down to a restaurant. Like most of us when entering a restaurant after a long trip, we looked for a comfort room. It was rather shocking for us to see an ill-maintained one adjacent to the kitchen. I would not elaborate on the smell emanating from the toilet. We thought of going to a nearby restaurant, except that it was the only one in the area. When hunger strikes, there is nothing else you would wish to have but food. So my girlfriend and I tried not to discuss about it and just pretended that everything was alright. Luckily, we didn't end up with a stomach disorder after that lunch.

The restaurant, its comfort room especially, should have been clean, clean and clean. Never mind if it wasn't new, it should have been at least clean. Where do all the millions of pesos that tourists bring in each year go? Can't we not build just one more well-kept toilet in this world-renowned tourist destination?

If the Philippines wishes to attract tourists from all over the world, it should address this kind of problem. Until the tourism department cannot do something about it, the Philippine tourism industry will be just like a huge, beautiful house without a toilet.

—GERALD OF BASEL, Switzerland, gercan@hotmail.com

Do Filipino children enjoy their rights?

THIS letter refers to your news story, "Bodies of four activists found." (PDI, 09/24/03) The Children's Rehabilitation Center, as an institution that advocates child rights and welfare in situations of armed conflict, would like to express our sympathy to the families and relatives of the four "activists" who were abducted and massacred last Sept. 19, 2003, in Maco, Compostela Valley.

The murder of Lito Doydoy, Marjorie Reynoso, Jonathan Benaro, 16-years old, all of whom were Anakbayan organizers, and Ramon "Jong-jong" Regase Jr., a 17-year-old tricyle driver, is depressing for the Filipino people, particularly, the Filipino children. They are organizers, members of progressive mass movements who, at their young age, chose to be agents of change in our society. Instead of being hooked on drugs, drinking and being gang members, they opted to stand against the decayed system. They could have been our future leaders, and hopes for our country. What they got in return is persecution and death allegedly in the hands of the Military Intelligence Group under the Macapagal-Arroyo's "Strong Republic."

The Philippine government is a signatory to the international convention protecting the rights of children like the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). And according to Art. X, Sec. 22 of Republic Act 7610, "It shall be the responsibility of the State and all other sectors concerned to resolve armed conflicts in order to promote the goal of children as zone of peace." Yet, Filipino children have not enjoyed the protection under the law. Instead, violation against children continues and is even escalating under the "Strong Republic" of the Macapagal administration.

This kind of government deserves strong condemnation for causing the death of children who are advocating for the advancement of their rights. At the same time, we cry out for justice. Justice for Lito, Marjorie, Jonathan and Ramon!

—ISABEL LANADA, Office-in-Charge, Children's Rehabilitation Center, 90 J. Bogallon St., Brgy. Bagumbuhay, Proj. 4, Quezon City

Lessons from Kris and Joey?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NOW that Kris has gotten her apology from Joey, I hope we will be spared from more of her hysterics and histrionics. It's bad enough that we'll have to live the next few weeks with that other ham actress, Tita Glo, trying to convince people she is running only because she cares so much for us.

I did want to talk a bit though about the fallout from the KJ coverage. My colleagues in public health work keep trying to console me, arguing that Kris has at least helped raise people's consciousness about domestic violence and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Women's crisis hotlines reported an increase in the number of callers reporting domestic violence, and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit came out to warn the public that STIs were on the rise and that this could lead to an AIDS epidemic.

But the impression I got from talking with people on the street and listening to talk shows on AM radio stations is that this KJ roadshow has moved us backwards, plunging the nation into thicker fog when it comes to understanding sexual issues.

First, on the domestic violence issue. I already wrote last week that the way the KJ affair has been publicized, there was the danger of domestic violence becoming trivialized, seen as one of those accidents coming with lovers' spats. I've always felt "gender-based violence" or "violence against women" are more accurate terms, highlighting the unequal power relationships that cause the violence.

From what I was hearing in the mass media, the gender issue rarely came up. This should not be surprising. It was, and still is, difficult for people to think of Kris as a powerless female, because in fact she is not.

People point out that women's groups found they were handling more phone calls from battered women. That is well and good. But I'd be curious to find out, as well, if there was a drop in the number of domestic violence cases during the Kris crisis. I was watching a television show the other night, produced at the height of the KJ crisis, and it had scenes from a police precinct, which still had the usual cases of women complaining about being beaten up by their husbands or boyfriends.

Even more revealing, one of the accused who was interviewed, behind bars, continued to insist it was his right to be beat up his wife, as well as his sister-in-law. "*Lalake ako*," (I am a man) he said. I wouldn't be surprised, frankly, if there were men out there actually admiring Mayor Joey, following Kris' accusations, for being "a man."

Which takes me to the second issue: STIs. One dzMM radio commentator claimed that he overheard some tricycle drivers talking among themselves about "*tulo*" (a generic term for STIs involving discharge from the penis). According to the commentator, one of the tricycle drivers said that if Joey Marquez could get *tulo*, then why shouldn't they follow his lead? Even if that was said as a joke, it tells us a lot about how the Kris-Joey affair could take a rather aberrant twist, maybe reinforcing machismo attitudes.

What I was most alarmed with though was the way the health secretary's pronouncements on STIs were (mis)interpreted. Dayrit had urged the public to take preventive measures, including the use of condoms. So what messages got to the public? For one hour on an early morning radio show, I had to listen to two male commentators talking about how an AIDS epidemic would explode because the government had neglected family planning. The message the commentators got, and they repeated this several times, was that "contraceptives" prevent STIs. They had heard right about condoms preventing STIs but extended condoms to include all contraceptives.

Let's get things straight: Condoms do prevent STIs, including HIV/AIDS. But pills don't. Neither does the IUD, or withdrawal, or aspirin, or whatever else people are using to prevent pregnancies. Condoms, on the other hand, do prevent both pregnancies and STIs.

Besides the confusion around the prevention of STIs, there was also a lot of talk about toilet seats as a cause of STIs. I even caught actress Melanie Marquez (Joey's sister) making that claim on a radio interview. I don't know if that was her way of defending her brother or if she actually believed that myth.

Let's get this straight again: You do not get STIs from toilet seats, or from casual contact. As the term implies, you need to have sex to get the infection, otherwise we'd call them TTIs (toilet-transmitted infections)...okay, the smart alecks can play on the "TT" as well.

So did the public come to understand STIs better? I doubt it. Pinoy-style, there were more jokes about STIs than serious discussions. Sample joke I picked up on radio: If you get STIs through sex, then how do you get AMAs?

To further complicate matters, religious conservatives came out with their old claims that condoms don't prevent STIs. Where does that leave our Kris and Joey wannabes? Probably taking on the attitude: Oh well, I can't be monogamous, and condoms don't work, that's life.

Meanwhile, I suspect we haven't heard the last of this KJ soap. I leave it to readers to speculate on what the next chapter of this cheap soap opera will be. Will they get back together again? Or will Kris keep her (televised) promise to her mother about becoming the daughter Cory deserves? Will that mean she will now run for senator on the Lakas slate? Will she win?

Will our nightmares ever end?

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

WE DELIVER!

Hungry for news that would feed your mind? The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers straight to your doorstep. Subscribe to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 528-02-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ______________________
Address ______________________
______________________ Tel. No. __________
Signature______________________

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Resignation of top GSIS execs urged

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southen Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Government worker leaders in Quezon are calling for the resignation of top officials of the Government Service Insurance System.

During a rally held in front of the Government Service and Insurance System building here yesterday, at least 100 union leaders from among the ranks of Quezon provincial employees, Lucena City government workers, National Food Authority-Quezon personnel and the Quezon public school teachers, took turns in lambasting the alleged mishandling of the government workers' money.

Jonathan Villasante, president of Lucena City state workers organization, reminded GSIS president Winston Garcia that he owed it to the government workers whatever perks and privileges the GSIS top brass and employees are now enjoying.

"But for the rest of the government workers, the GSIS has been continuously depriving them of the benefits due to all state employees. And if our loans and claims are finally granted, it took us several months to wait," Villasante said.

The workers recalled that it used to take them only several days for the release of approved loans or claims. Some employees interviewed by the INQUIRER said they filed their loans last March but until now they are still waiting for the release of the checks for salary and policy loans despite the much-vaunted GSIS computerization that supposedly will fast-track every transaction.

Villasante said the government workers' money that they have entrusted to the GSIS "is for our benefits and not for the purchase of the multimillion-peso Juan Luna painting," referring to the controversial purchase of Luna's "Parisian Life" worth P46 million.

Jessie Reyes, president of GSIS-Quezon workers union, refused to categorically answer whether they share the sentiments of the protesting workers.

He said all officials of the GSIS labor unions nationwide will meet in Manila to discuss the restiveness of fellow government workers.

It was reported that GSIS employees receive higher wages compared to other government workers.

The protesters carried placards and marched under the seething heat of the sun for about half an hour to reach the GSIS building in Barangay Isabang in the outskirts of the city.

"Where is our money? Why is it that the GSIS is now giving us a hard time?" the workers asked.

Nida Arenas, officials of Unyon ng mga Kawani sa Quezon Inc., also hit the GSIS policy of releasing "for deposit and cross checks."

"How about the small government employees who could barely survive with their pay envelope? Where would they get the money to open their own bank account?"

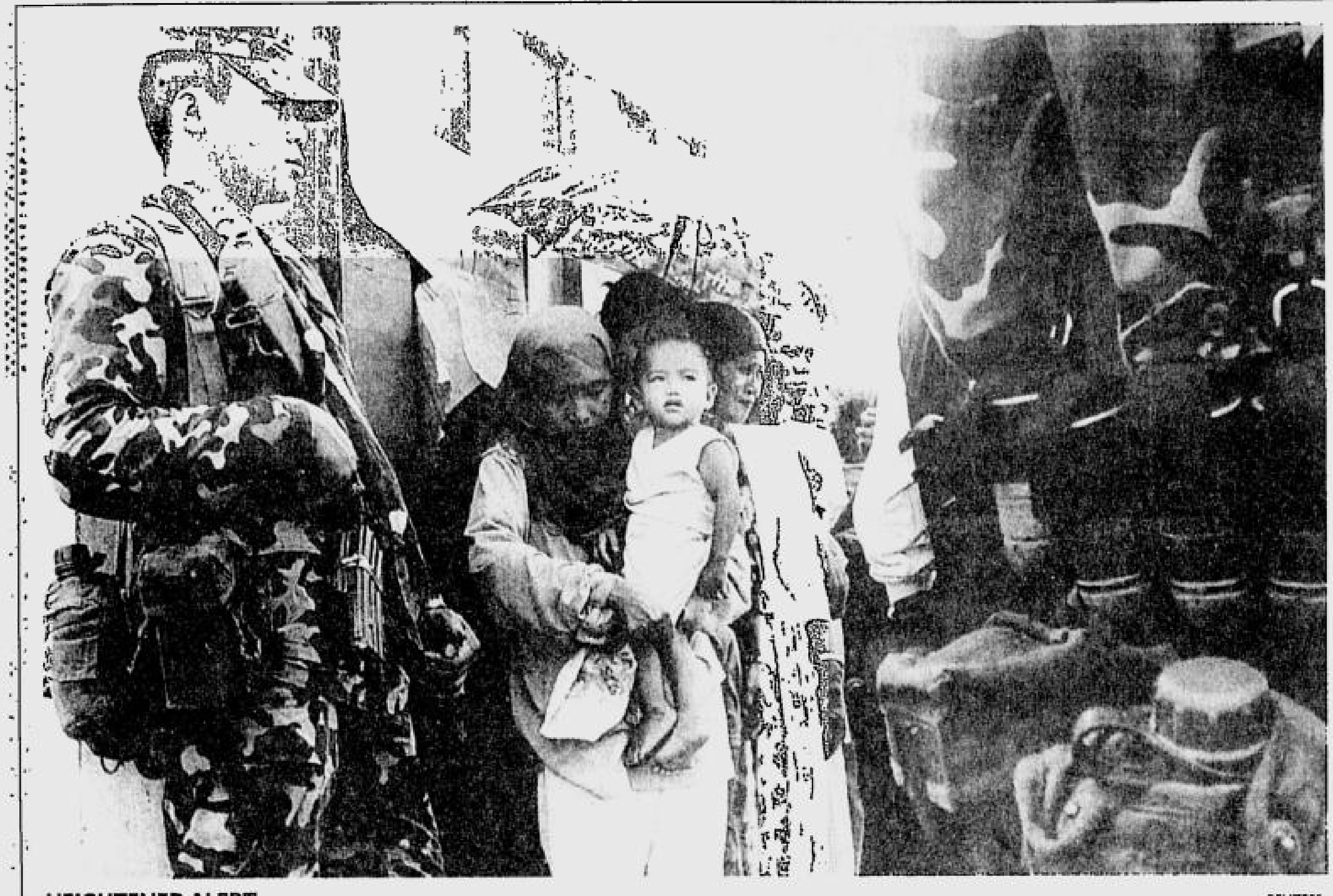
Noel Perez, manager of GSIS-Quezon branch, invited the protesting government workers in his office for a dialogue but the protesters declined and preferred that they meet in front of the building.

In front of the red-shirted government workers, Perez said the problem of slow processing should be blamed on their Manila office.

He explained that when the GSIS main computer in Manila put their local units off-line, they could do nothing more but just wait for the reconnection.

"We're working overtime here with no pay just to speed up the processing," he told his fellow workers.

He promised that he would echo the protesters' sentiments in Manila.



REUTERS

HEIGHTENED ALERT
Zamboanga residents do not seem to mind the fully armed Marines as the poor folk line up for a medical mission on Saturday at the school compound in Taluksangay, Zamboanga City. Security has been heightened in the area after a man hurled a grenade into a mosque on Friday, killing four people and wounding at least 17 others.

Teacher files rape rap vs DepEd official

DAGUPAN CITY—A public school teacher in Bayambang, Pangasinan, filed a rape case against the chief legal officer of the Department of Education in Ilocos after the official allegedly abused her in July.

In her complaint filed before the provincial prosecutor's office in Urdaneta City on Sept. 19, the teacher said Wade Latawan, DepEd regional chief legal officer, raped her in the office of the DepEd Pangasinan Division II in Binalonan town.

She claimed that the abuse happened after Latawan told her that he would dismiss a case filed against her for child molestation.

She said that on July 4 this year, Latawan asked her to go to the DepEd division II office in Binalonan to receive some documents on the case.

She said she arrived at 4 p.m. and waited outside the office. Latawan reportedly let her in at 6 p.m. and raped her in the room of the school superintendent who had left the office.

Latawan, however, said that he could not have gone to Binalonan on July 4 because he attended an executive committee meeting of the DepEd regional office in San Fernando City.

Latawan said he was able to get a copy of the complainant's daily time record showing that she was in her school in Bayambang until 5:17 p.m. of July 4 and could not be in Binalonan at 4 p.m.

She said Latawan was handling the case filed against her by her two pupils. She met Latawan on April 25 this year when he presided over the investigation of the case, she said.

"Because of his authority and capacity as chief legal officer and investigator of the case, I became submissive to all his wishes and demands, expecting in return that he could help me in the malicious charges (against) me," the complainant said.

She also claimed that Latawan had a gun, which he pointed at her.

Vilma Labrador, DepEd Ilocos director, recommended the dismissal of the child molestation case against the complainant on July 7, or three days after the alleged rape happened. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NDF presents 2 'renegade' soldiers to media

SOMEWHERE IN CARAGA—The National Democratic Front (NDF) on Sunday presented to the media two "renegade" Army soldiers who were reported dead by top military officials more than a month ago.

The soldiers were identified as Army Cpl. Edward Quirante and Pfc. Boboy Abduhasad, both of the 29th Infantry Battalion (IB) based in San Luis, Agusan del Sur.

Quirante and Abduhasad were reported dead by 4th Infantry Division Cristuto Balaoing and Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero after they reportedly ransacked on Aug. 7 a military armory, taking with them nine high-powered firearms.

"*Buhay pa kami at nasa mabuting kamay ng mga* NPA (we are still alive and are in the good hands of the NPA)," Quirante told Davao and Butuan reporters in a press conference held in a forested area here on Sunday afternoon.

Quirante said their desertion from their detachment on Aug. 7 was prompted by grave threats and physical maltreatment committed by their senior officers, and rampant corruption inside the Charlie Company of the 29th IB.

He also complained of delay or non-issuance of their military and food supplies, reduction of their salaries and allowances, and alleged abuses of their senior officers against women.

The NDF, in a press statement dated Aug. 26, said the desertion happened a week after the July 27 Makati mutiny, but was only reported after almost a month due to the ongoing military operations and problems in communications.

Quirante said they turned over to the NPA the nine firearms—an M203 grenade launcher, two M-16 Armalites, two M-14 rifles, and five Garand rifles—which they took from the detachment armory.

NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris said they were just waiting for the two soldiers to make their firm decision to join them as he emphasized that the two have the free will to do so.

"I would emphasize that joining the NPA is voluntary. We are not forcing the people to join us," Madlos said.

He said Quirante and Abduhasad were among the well-meaning and patriotic soldiers who are brave enough to expose the corruption in the military.

Madlos said the NDF is trying to establish contact with the families of the two soldiers. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE REHAU® GERMANY ADVANTAGE
THE SECRET IS IN THE JOINTING SYSTEM

NO LEAKS. NO RUST. NO PROBLEM.

Other pipes can copy how our PE-X pipes look.
Other pipes can copy the way our ads look.

But they won't be able to copy
the one thing that really matters:

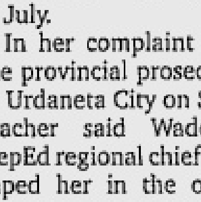
The REHAU 2-piece permanent leak-proof jointing system.
Unequalled. Unsurpassed.
Unlike any other piping system in the world.

REHAU
Other pipes

NO EQUAL.
REHAU®
GERMANY
Hot & Cold Water Piping System
The 21st Century Pipe.

Exclusively Distributed By
CAMP MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
TEL. NOS. 740-1065 • 740-1064 • 741-9151 • 741-9145 FAX NO. 740-0046
CEBU: 212 T. Padilla St. Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 2543015

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 512 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Lapid says son has GMA blessing to run for gov

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the plan of the ruling party Lakas-CMD in Pampanga to field Board Member Mark Lapid as its gubernatorial candidate in 2004, according to Gov. Manuel Lapid, Mark's father.

Lapid, provincial Lakas chair, revealed this endorsement on Monday before the local Lakas chapter could convene for a party meeting.

"OK *na*, OK *na*," he said when asked if the President had agreed to the local party's plan to field the younger Lapid in the gubernatorial race in next year's elections.

Mark is the chair of the Association of Barangay Captains in Pampanga, the home province of the President. On that account, he represents barangay captains in the provincial board although on an ex-officio status or without voting power. He used to represent the youth in the same board until the May 1998 elections.

Lapid said he clinched his son's role in Lakas through Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the President's eldest son.

Arroyo chose to run for representative of the second district and agreed that Mark should run for governor. Lapid said instead of running for representative in the second district, he would run for mayor of Angeles City to avoid clashing with Arroyo.

Lapid also said he was still open to the prospect of joining the administration party's senatorial slate. Lakas, he said, has included him in the surveys for possible Senate contenders.

Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, also a member of Lakas and another gubernatorial hopeful, said nothing was official yet on the local slate. Rodriguez was one of the prosecutors in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

The final lineup, he noted, would be known after Lakas holds its national convention today.

Two other legislators, Representatives Zenaida Cruz-Ducut and Juan Pablo Bondoc, are running for governor. Both are with the Nationalist People's Coalition. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Biazon: GMA propelling RP toward Edsa IV

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's Dec. 30, 2002, speech here, which declared that she was out of the 2004 presidential derby, fostered the disintegration of the administration party Lakas-CMD while it remains in power, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said on Saturday.

Biazon said Ms Macapagal's "decision to drop from the presidential race (on Dec. 30) encouraged the many superstars" in Lakas to jockey for the Lakas presidential candidacy.

But the "superstars' hopes were dashed" by signals from Lakas leaders that Ms Macapagal would "not honor her promise," which she made in Baguio during the Rizal Day celebrations, he said.

As a consequence, Biazon said Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Lakas president, and Sen. Loren Legarda, the party's vice president and Senate majority leader, resigned.

Biazon said the infighting among the disunited opposition parties has not affected the country's stability as much as the Lakas division.

He told the INQUIRER that the opposition is not gloating over the administration party's ruin because it has sent confusing signals to international investors, global leaders and the country's military.

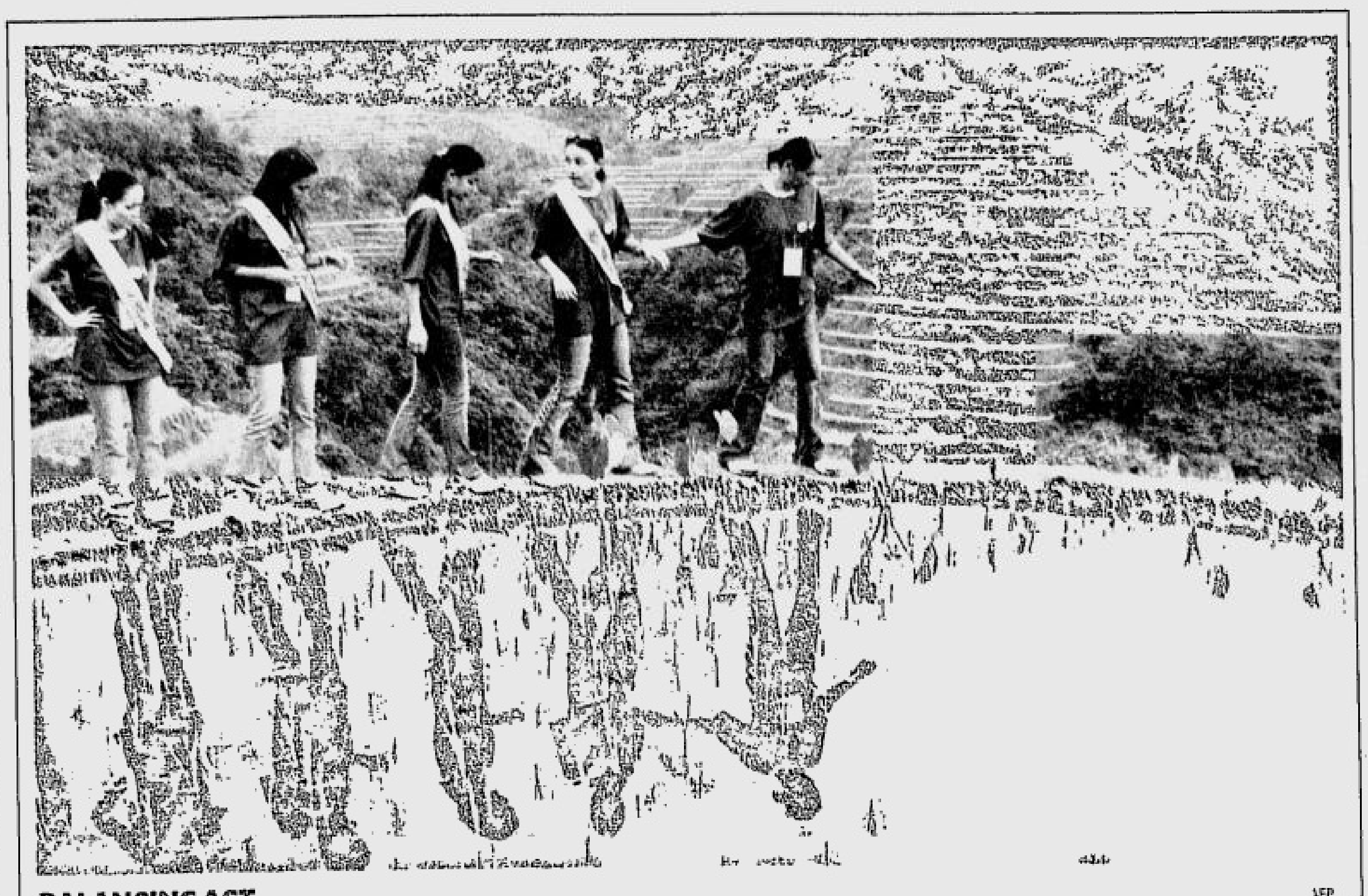
He said it was unusual for an administration party to disintegrate before an election and stressed that Lakas' predicament reveals the instability and fragility of the Macapagal government.

He said the confusion made an Edsa IV "very likely."

But an Edsa IV revolt fueled by the military and civilians may no longer result in civilian supremacy because of the military's frustrations, he added.

After the aborted July 27 mutiny by the Magdalo Group of young officers, the subsequent events already point to the ambitions of a politicized military, he said.

Biazon urged Ms Macapagal to immediately convene the political summit she supported earlier. He said the political summit would help streamline the political infighting and would flesh out for the public which parties are really pro-administration and which parties are in the opposition. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



BALANCING ACT

AFP

Five finalists of the Miss Earth Philippines 2002 put their balancing knowhow to a test on the paddies of the Banaue rice terraces during their tour of Ifugao province to promote tourism. From left are Joyce Garcia, Laura Dunlop, Sheila Franco, Natalie Tarin and Carlene Aguilar.

Visayas officials welcome GMA bid

CEBU CITY—Most of the top officials in the Visayas welcomed the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek the presidency in 2004.

Sergio Apostol, regional chair of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in Eastern Visayas, said the announcement brought stability to the party and the nation as well.

Apostol, who chairs the state-owned Philippine National Oil Com-Energy Development Corp. said that with the decision, no other member of the party would jump to the opposition.

"This will help stop Lakas members from bolting from the party," added Apostol, apparently referring to Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Sen. Loren Legarda who bolted the ruling party last week for various reasons.

In Western Visayas, five governors vowed to support President Macapagal's bid for the presidency in 2004, leaving Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon the odd man out.

Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas, Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Capiz Gov. Vic Bermejo, Antique Gov. Sally Perez and Guimaras Gov. Rahman Nava hung streamers Saturday at the opening of the Pasundayag sang Western Visayas organized by the Department of Tourism in Intramuros, Manila.

The streamers aired their provinces' support for her 2004 bid. Some people complained that what was supposed be a tourism promotions affair appeared to have been turned into a political rally.

At the Pasundayag, where different festivals of Western Visayas were presented, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas announced that the five governors from Panay Island had passed a resolution expressing their deep gratitude to Ms Macapagal for her decision to run and their support.

"We strongly believe that this will provide our nation the benefit of enjoying her excellent services as a leader and architect of recovery during these difficult times," Roxas quoted the governors and other leaders of Western Visayas as saying in their resolution.

President Macapagal, in turn, thanked them for their support and pointed out that her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, is from Binalbagan and Isabela in Negros Occidental, while his grandfather, the late Senator Jose Maria Arroyo, was from Iloilo.

Asked if the resignation of Guingona and Legarda from the Lakas would cause party instability, Ms Macapagal said that would be tackled in a party directorate meeting on Tuesday.

This is not the time to campaign, "as much as possible I want to avoid politics and attend to the day to day needs of the nation first," the President said.

She said her declaration that she is running in 2004 does not mean the campaign has started now, it will start in February.

Marañon said he did not put up a streamer and air his support for President Macapagal because he thought the Pasundayag was supposed to be an affair to promote the best of Western Visayas, not a political rally.

Marañon, who is a member of the United Negros Alliance, said he has his own party and whomever it supports he will endorse.

The governor in the past has openly aired his preference for business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco to run for president, but the latter has yet to declare his intention to do so.

Marañon said he did not think politics should have been injected into the Pasundayag that is a tourism promotion program of the DOT because "we are dividing Region 6 instead of uniting it, this is divisive."

When asked by the media if she will have enough support from Negros Occidental, the President said, "you know that better than me ... I hope so."

Sources said efforts have been made by several Macapagal allies to win Marañon over to back her 2004 bid.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who joined the President's party in Pampanga when she announced her plan to run, said "there is no way for her but up, we will see this in the surveys after the visit of (US President George) Bush."

In Cebu, Gov. Pablo Garcia, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Mandaue City Mayor Tadeo Ouano and other officials said Ms Macapagal is the best candidate for president on next year's election.

They said the President has justifiable reason to change her decision in December last year not to run.

Garcia said the President should not be accused of lying. He believed the President has announced during those times that she would not seek for the Presidency to save the nation from too much politics.

Osmeña said Ms Macapagal should run because the administration party has no other winnable candidate for the presidency.

Osmeña said it was expected that her critics would use the issue of word of honor but that it was the best thing to do at that time. *Joey Gabieta, Carla Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Anti-Bush group slams GMA's 'lies'

CALAMBA, Laguna—A newly launched coalition in Southern Tagalog condemned the turnaround of President Macapagal-Arroyo from her December 2002 declaration that she will not seek presidency in 2004.

Calling Ms Macapagal "a liar and one whose words and promises cannot be trusted," Joseph Garcia, spokesperson of Southern Tagalog Opposed to the Presence of Bush (Stop Bush), said they are not surprised over the president's declaration because "obviously, she has already gained the support of US President George W. Bush through her all-out support to the war against terrorism and the Iraq war."

Garcia noted that the President "already has a long list of policies and actions that have violated Philippine sovereignty and rights just to be able to follow US imperialist dictates and gain the favor of Bush."

He noted the administration's unhampered support to "imperialist globalization," the continued joint military exercises in Mindanao and in Ternate, Cavite made possible through the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement, and the signing of a secret treaty providing immunity to US forces from prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

The group called on various sectors "to end Arroyo's term before the 2004 elections and to oppose Bush's continued support to her corrupt regime," Garcia added.

Stop Bush said it will hold a six-day march from various provinces in Southern Tagalog to Manila from Oct. 13-18 to air their concerns. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No Gloria support from Cordillera leftists

BAGUIO CITY—Militant groups said President Macapagal-Arroyo should not expect any support for her 2004 candidacy from Left-leaning groups and indigenous peoples in the Cordillera because of her "anti-people policies."

They assailed Ms Macapagal for using Baguio City on Dec. 30, 2002, as a launching pad for her strategy of deceiving the people about her "self-serving political ambition."

"She lied to the city and she lied to the country," they said.

Wyndel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance said, the Macapagal administration had supported anti-people policies such as militarization and globalization that, he noted, had victimized and displaced indigenous peoples.

"There is no hope that we can expect from GMA. How can we support a president who is a liar?" Bolinget said in a forum here.

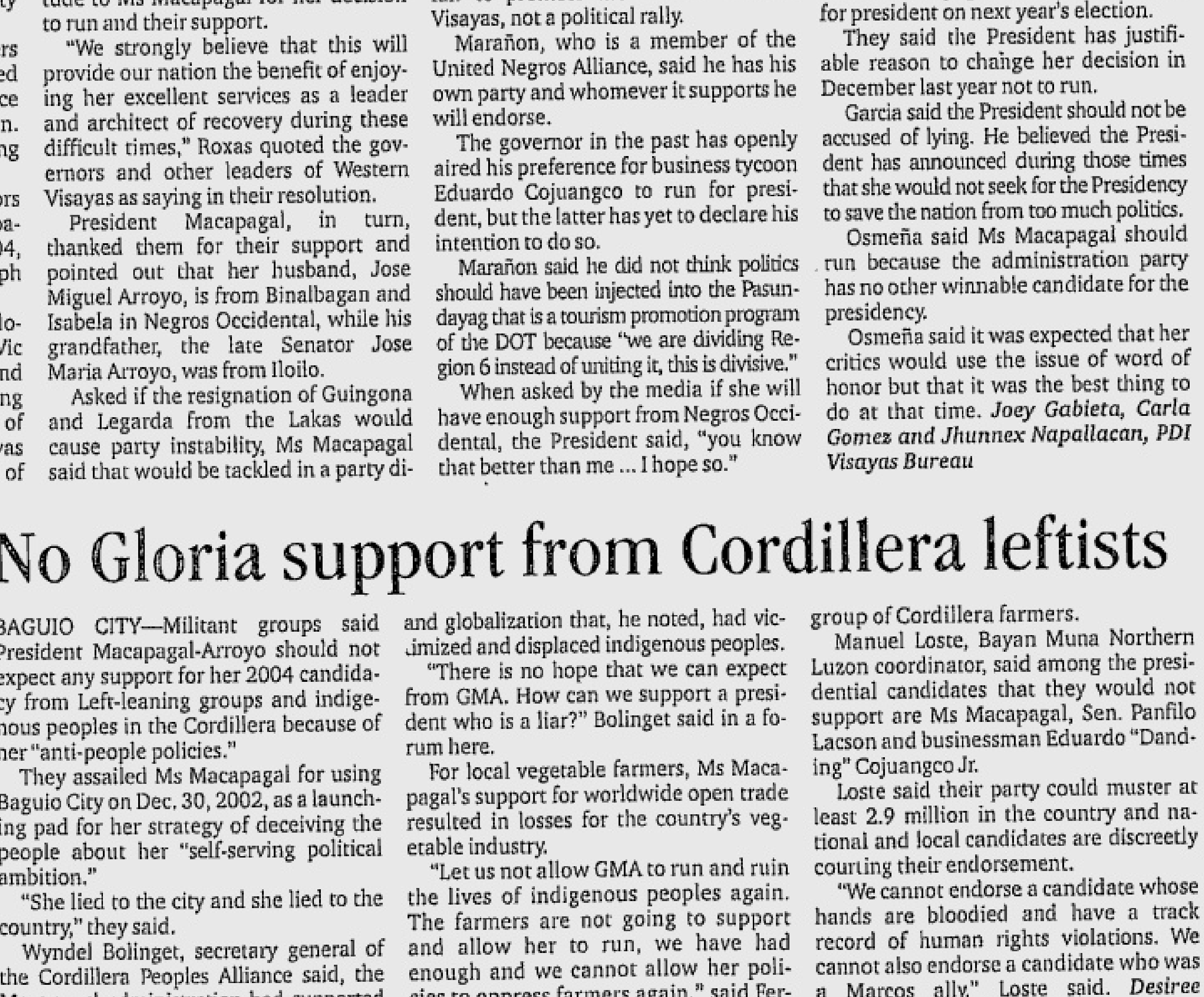
For local vegetable farmers, Ms Macapagal's support for worldwide open trade resulted in losses for the country's vegetable industry.

"Let us not allow GMA to run and ruin the lives of indigenous peoples again. The farmers are not going to support and allow her to run, we have had enough and we cannot allow her policies to oppress farmers again," said Fernando Mangili, chair of Apit Tako, a group of Cordillera farmers.

Manuel Loste, Bayan Muna Northern Luzon coordinator, said among the presidential candidates that they would not support are Ms Macapagal, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Loste said their party could muster at least 2.9 million in the country and national and local candidates are discreetly courting their endorsement.

"We cannot endorse a candidate whose hands are bloodied and have a track record of human rights violations. We cannot also endorse a candidate who was a Marcos ally," Loste said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



SAILBOAT RACE

REUTERS

Children enjoy the view from the beach at the start of a colorful sailboat race in Zamboanga City Sunday. Every year, fishermen called *samas* or seafarers, come to the city to compete in the race, which marks the start of the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, who was said to have miraculously appeared at the Spanish-built garrison during the Spanish period.

ROUNDUP

34 fishermen freed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The 34 fishermen held for months in Indonesia for illegal poaching, were finally reunited with their families on Monday. They were brought back to the country through the Philippine Coast Guard and the Socsksargen Fishing Federation and Allied Services, Inc. Lt. Commodore George Ursabia Jr., Phil. Coast Guard station chief based in Makar Port here, told reporters that the fishermen had been freed because of strong representations by the city's fishing sector and the Philippine Consulate with the Indonesian government. Nineteen of the 34 fishermen are residents of Zamboanga City, 10 hailed from Malapatan, Sarangani, four from Tawi-Tawi and one from Cebu. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Robbers take P300,000

CALAMBA CITY—Three unidentified men robbed a businessman of San Pedro, Laguna of P300,000 in cash on Friday. Police said Consorcio Tagunicar, 85, was on board a white Mitsubishi van with his driver Vicente Naval, 52, of the same town, and had just withdrawn money from a United Coconut Planters Bank branch in Barangay Landayan, San Pedro when the three suspects aboard a motorcycle blocked their path and shot the vehicle's front wheels. Two of the suspects took the bag of money from the victims. The suspects fled towards Muntinlupa. Naval suffered bullet wounds on his stomach while Tagunicar had wounds from the broken glass windows. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Robbers kill 2 guards

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Suspected robbers killed two security guards and robbed about P150,000 worth of cash, and guns from the Nation Gas Corp. office in Barangay Malabanban Sur on Sunday. Killed were Mario Alinea, 29, of this town, and Jonathan Tapero, 31, of the same barangay, police said. Both were guards of the Banahaw Security Agency. Police found the two guards lying dead with several bullet wounds in different parts of their bodies. The victims' firearms—an M-16 rifle, an Armscor shotgun and a .38-caliber revolver—were all missing.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Caretaker roasted

REAL, Quezon—A drunken house caretaker was killed in a fire in Barangay Maunlad on Saturday. Alex Rayuno, 37, caretaker of the burned house owned by one Dominador Guanzon, reportedly went home dead drunk and fell asleep without noticing the fire caused by a defective liquefied petroleum gas tank, police said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Robber squeals

TANAUAN CITY—After getting shot at by armed men, a suspected robber blamed a barangay captain for the attempt to kill him, and in the process, revealed the group's plan to rob the suspect's house in Barangay Santos. Victim Angelo Simangkas, 42, from Wawa, this city, was waiting for a ride home when some armed men shot him at close range. He sustained bullet wounds on his head, right hand and stomach. Bystanders rushed him to the hospital. Simangkas identified Francisco Siman, Wawa barangay captain, as the mastermind of the attempt to kill him. When pressed why Siman wanted to kill him, Simangkas said Siman discovered the robbery group's plan to rob the house of the barangay captain. The victim turned out to be part of a notorious robbery group in the city. *Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

British recruiter charged

BAGUIO CITY—A British man was charged with illegal recruitment by the National Bureau of Investigation here. Leonard Arthur Shaw, 59, a resident of Asin Road and originally from London, was arrested in Quezon, Palawan, last week and brought here for identification He was arrested in Palawan using the name Leonard Mason, said NBI agent Darwin Lising. Shaw had been enticing applicants to work for various jobs in London for P100,000 monthly, and initially collecting P7,000 from applicants. "So far, no one has left for the United Kingdom," Lising said. The NBI has received several complaints against Shaw from as far as Batangas, he said. The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency has certified that Shaw's agency is not authorized to recruit Filipinos for jobs in the UK.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Metro sets 'green' welcome for Bush

By Margaux Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has been tasked to lay out a "green carpet" for American President George W. Bush.

The MMDA has allocated P10 million to beautify Metro Manila's "visitors' route" with flowers and plants, said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno.

Nacianceno identified the visitors' route as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Domestic Road, Roxas Boulevard, McKinley Road, Ayala Avenue and all roads leading to Malacañang Palace.

Nacianceno said they had hired two landscape architects to take charge of the beautification.

The MMDA official also said they will make sure to get hardy plants which could survive different environmental elements like pollution and seawater as in the case of Roxas Boulevard.

Nacianceno said that they would be planting various shrubs with different leaf colors, bougainvillea and adelfa along the visitor's route.

"We have planted similar (plant) varieties along the Metro Rail Transit line from Pasay City to Clover Leaf in Quezon City," Nacianceno said.

Nacianceno said they would make sure the plants would not cover the sidewalks or the roadways.

He added that the plants should not be thick or tall enough to shelter or hide people so as not to encourage the proliferation of vagrants and hobos.

But while the MMDA prepares for a quiet, more visual welcome for Bush, militant groups are vowing to greet the American president with protest actions.

Members of the Kilusan sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) stormed the US Embassy yesterday to air their disapproval of Bush's visit on Oct. 18.

"Hostility and not hospitality from the Filipino people will greet 'war freak' Bush should he arrive here," said KPD secretary general Millet Morante.

She said her group would welcome the US President with as much protest as it could generate.

Several militant groups earlier vowed to give Bush a "fiery" welcome because of his war on Iraq and policies that are oppressive to third world nations.

The police have warned that the "no permit, no rally" policy would be strictly enforced.

Beginning several weeks ago, militant groups have stepped up their street protests, some of which ended in violent dispersal.

METROBRIEFS

Jealous rage

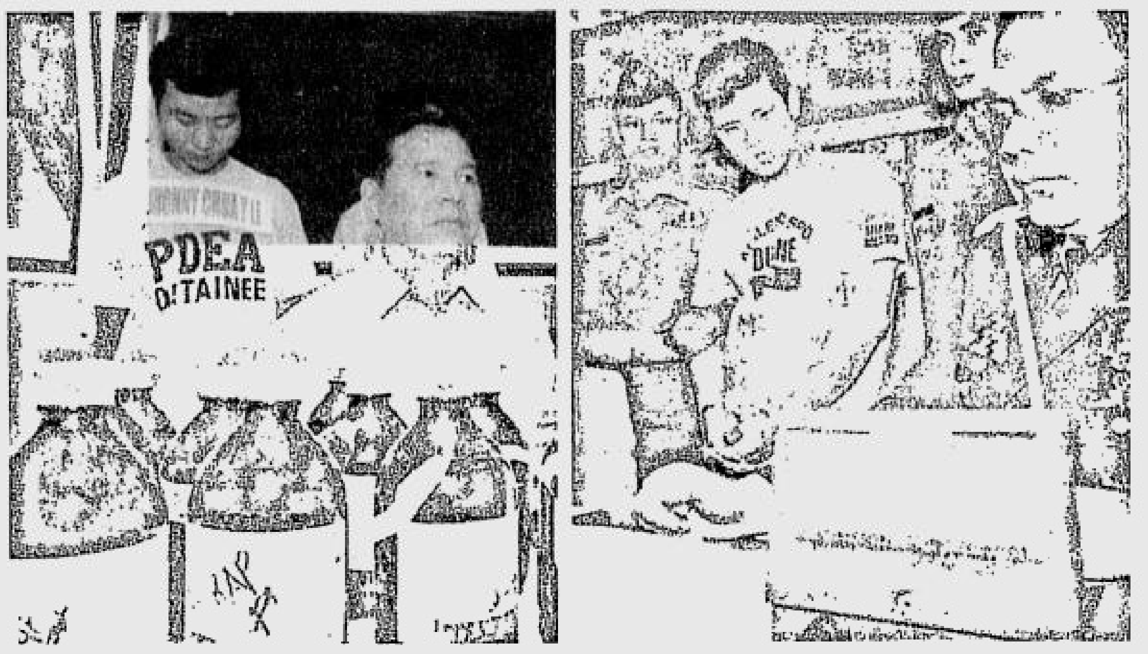
A WOMAN bank officer was seriously wounded after her live-in partner stabbed her at least 20 times with a screwdriver Sunday night at the parking lot of the Star Mall in Mandaluyong City. The police are looking at jealousy as the motive behind the stabbing of Arlene Tanedo, marketing officer at Banco Parañaque and a resident of Gerardo Street, Sampaloc, Manila. Her lover, Martin de Guzman, Jr., later allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at the service gate of the La Tienda Restaurant on Polaris Street, Makati City. *Luige del Puerto*

Jailed over posters

SIX ANTI-ARROYO activists landed in jail early yesterday morning in Manila after they were caught putting up streamers and posters with statements critical of the President. Ariel Verdodazo, 25; Ernie Mendebel, 22; Ralph Reli, 18; Eduardo Ortillo, 18; Rodel Porton, 20; and Nick Adato, 18, were nabbed by patrolling Western Police District lawmen along Taft Avenue corner Nakpil Street at about 1 a.m. The police said the six refused to identify who told them to put up the streamers. They were booked for vandalism. *Leila Salaverria*

Revealing temper

DANILO Obosa could have remained in hiding had he not lost his temper and got involved in a fistfight with a neighbor in Barangay Salvador, Matalom, Leyte, last week. The brawl was reported to the Matalom police on Sept. 29. The police looked into his background and discovered that Obosa was wanted for killing Elizabeth Goyenchea and Angela Badilla, and seriously wounding Reynaldo Ladica in Valenzuela City on July 3, 1998. Obosa allegedly killed the victims inside their sari-sari store in Barangay Marulas during a robbery. The Valenzuela City police sent a team last Oct. 1 to Leyte to serve a warrant of arrest against Obosa, City Police Chief Jose Marcelo told the INQUIRER yesterday.



PDEA Executive Director Anselmo Avenido (left) with suspect Johnny Chua; at right, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane presents suspect Zhang Huo Fa. JOAN BONDOC

2 Chinese men fall in antidrug drive

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO CHINESE nationals believed to be working for a transnational drug ring have been arrested in separate operations by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police.

Zhang Huo Fa alias Siem Lee, 25, was caught in the act of selling four kilos of shabu worth around P8 million to a poseur buyer during a buy-bust operation on Timog Avenue in Quezon City the other day.

The suspect is a native of Fookien in mainland China and currently a resident of 1132 Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila, according to Senior Supt. Nicasion Radovan Jr., executive officer of the PNP task force on illegal drugs.

Three days earlier, businessman Johnny Chia alias Cai Rongzon, 30, was arrested by PDEA operatives for allegedly trying to smuggle shabu-making equipment and ingredients to a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

His helpers, Joemar Acosta and Lito Tolentino, were also arrested.

PDEA Chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. yesterday said Chua was part of the syndicate that operated the Valenzuela police last December.

A closed aluminum van (WPH 809) yielded a huge hydro-generator after PDEA men flagged down the vehicle on Bionic Street, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela. Avenido said the equipment was used to crystallize liquid shabu.

Avenido said the equipment and ingredients were similar to the ones found at the shabu laboratory in Tanza, Cavite last July.

Man injured in Eastwood shooting

A GROUP of "bald men" fired shots at a crowd watching the Octoberfest in Libis, Quezon City on Saturday, injuring a 27-year-old man, police said.

Police identified the victim as Arnel Pilapil, of Obando, Bulacan. He remains in critical condition at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center due to a lone gunshot wound he sustained in the head.

PO2 Jeremias Barientos of the Central Police District Station 8 said the incident happened at 4:10 a.m. Saturday when the group allegedly fired shots at a crowd watching the musical event at the Eastwood City in Libis that featured rock bands.

Police said people scampered in different directions when they heard the shots. Pilapil, who was with friends, was hit on the head. *Tina Santos*

KRIS-JOEY AFFAIR

Drama is over

By Luige del Puerto

A SAD face and an apology from estranged lover Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez were all it took for TV host Kris Aquino to drop the charges she had filed against him.

Aquino, through her lawyer Celine Casanova, submitted an affidavit of desistance yesterday before the office of assistant city prosecutor Mariam Bien, officially withdrawing four criminal complaints she filed last month.

Her affidavit virtually renders the preliminary investigation on her complaints, set for Oct. 15, moot and academic.

A copy of Aquino's affidavit will be sent to Marquez, a staff member at the Pasig Regional Trial Court told the INQUIRER.

The withdrawing of the charges of grave threats, grave coercion, less serious physical injuries and illegal possession of firearms put a sober ending to a series of events that were highlighted by real life drama laid before the eyes of a public that has been fed a daily fare of telenovelas.

The youngest child of former President Corazon Aquino abandoned the charges after Marquez went on television Friday over GMA 7 and begged forgiveness over an alleged gun-poking incident on Sept. 22.

Marquez muttered words that were reportedly agreed upon by both camps the night before in a make or break meeting to settle amicably the events that ended the 18-month relationship of Aquino and Marquez.

And in a manner that somehow bridged the bitter divide between the country's leading broadcast networks, Aquino went live on ABS-CBN Channel 2 and promptly accepted Marquez's humble pleadings.

Priest files extortion raps vs ex-altar boy

A PASIG priest yesterday filed charges against his former altar boy who, he claimed, had mauled, threatened and blackmailed him.

Msgr. Pastor de Guzman of the Rosario parish told authorities that Joseph Leyra, the former altar boy, last week demanded P50,000 from him and threatened to "expose" him if he refused to pay.

The priest filed charges of extortion, attempted robbery and physical injuries against Leyra.

He also included in the extortion raps Barbara Balce, 38, a bookshop manager and a resident of Riverside Village, Barangay Rosario, who was allegedly sent to collect the money from him on Sunday, investigating officer PO3 Ernesto Paraso, Jr. said.

In his complaint, the priest said Leyran and another male companion visited him inside his church on Ortigas Avenue last Friday.

Because he knew Leyran, the priest said he entertained them inside his quarters.

Leyran then asked for water, so he went to his room to get some.

But once inside, Leyran locked the door and told him he would spread rumors against him if he refused to pay.

De Guzman said he tried to reason with Leyra, only to be met with three blows to the face.

Leyra also allegedly took the priest's mobile phone worth P21,000. Luige del Puerto

Hospital harasses student nurses

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. PANFILO Lacson did not deliver his scheduled third installment of his Jose Pidal exposé yesterday.

He told radio station dwIZ he would deliver his third privilege speech on the Pidal exposé if the Senate didn't do anything about his first and second speeches.

Mr. Senator, are you accusing your colleagues of sitting on their butts on the first and second installments of your Pidal expose?

* * *

But how can the Senate, particularly the blue ribbon committee, act on your exposé when you haven't presented proof of your accusations against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo?

You want your colleagues to act on gossip and gayspeak?

But that's not the way things are done in the Senate, "honorable" Senator from Cavite.

* * *

Why don't you just admit, Mr. Lacson, that you just took a long vacation in Australia and the United States to escape the "heat" generated by your first and second privilege speeches on the Jose Pidal accounts?

You said you were going to Australia to gather more evidence against Mike Arroyo. That presupposed that you had evidence in the first place, but you never had one. Except, of course, the salacious part about Mike Arroyo.

Now that your battery has been recharged, you're back to inflict yourself on the nation again.

* * *

The item last Saturday titled, "Nursing school teaches wrong values," has brought about a strong reaction from the Philippine Women's University (PWU).

Elsie Villarmil, a nursing student at the PWU, complained that she was being harassed by school authorities on suspicion that she was my source on an item in this space denouncing some doctors at the Rizal Medical Center (RMC) for maltreating maternity patients.

She was not. She, however, has confirmed the maltreatment.

* * *

Dr. Amelou Benitez-Reyes, PWU president, wrote us a long letter. But I can just cite significant excerpts in her letter for lack of space.

On allegations that the university teaches its students wrong values because it was preventing students to speak up against the oppressive RMC doctors: "On the contrary, the fact that you were able to get our student, Ms Elsie Villarmil, to confirm your other allegations is a living proof that the University's commitment to values education is a growing reality."

"Under my leadership, our institutional thrust is building a faithful community based on spirituality... We aim to achieve this mission through PWU's Moral Social Civic Education Program, as well as the teaching of religion and women's and gender studies which are prerequisites to all degree offerings."

"Alleged harassment of the student: After your article of Sept. 6, we received a letter from Dr. Winston Go of RMC requesting for an investigation since it was their initial finding that our student allegedly reported the matter to you. However, we must deny very strongly that any form of harassment was made; this might be a mistaken perception by the students when the (College of Nursing) Dean, Dr. Yolando Arugay, called for both students and faculty to shed light on the incident.

"The fact that you were able to get the name of a particular nursing student from PWU demonstrates our student's concern and bravery in confirming to you the questions you have addressed... This shows that our student was not afraid to say the truth. Indeed, truthfulness and honesty are among the values that PWU is able to teach its students.

"We are aware of one potential consequence of this public discussion—that government hospitals might retaliate against our students and the school. We are willing to take the big risk that our hospital partner-affiliates might make it very difficult for our students to take their clinical practicum. That would be a great pity because RMC offers a wide range of clinical experiences from which the students would benefit. However, we hope that this will not materialize. We trust that whatever investigation will be conducted should alert the Department of Health to monitor how these hospitals and clinics are run and to act on providing the resources needed to upgrade services, and on ensuring that the training of medical personnel is enhanced so they treat all patients humanely, bearing in mind innate dignity of every person."

* * *

The fear of PWU officials that RMC management might retaliate against the university's nursing students is not unfounded.

Yesterday, I received a report from some PWU nursing students that they were not allowed to have their practicum for the day.

The hospital management's reason? There was a mistake in the scheduling of nursing students on duty assignments. Nursing students belonging to another school were scheduled for duty at the RMC yesterday.

* * *

But RMC could have allowed both PWU nursing students and students from other nursing schools to work side by side. What's wrong with nursing students of different schools doing practicum work at the same time?

Since the RMC, like other government hospitals, is understaffed, they should welcome a helping hand from nursing students on OJT (on-the-job training).

Septuagenarian is never too old to fight for right

By Tina Santos

A 70-YEAR-OLD man yesterday proved that no one is ever too old to fight for his rights.

Ruben Lopez, 70, of Matipuno Street, Barangay Piñahan, Quezon City, filed a complaint against a drug store whose pharmacists allegedly refused to give him the discount due to senior citizens.

According to Lopez, he went to the Rose Pharmacy at the corner of Edsa and Kamias Road yesterday morning to buy an ointment which his wife badly needed.

He said that since he was buying the medication for his wife, he presented her Senior Citizen's identification card to one of the pharmacists.

The saleslady then asked him for an authorization letter since he was using his wife's ID. He left and came back an hour later with the letter.

But he was told that the medicine was already sold to another customer.

Angry, Lopez filed a complaint at the nearby police station.

MASSKARA FEST IN MALATE
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and his wife, Evelina (right), dance with the world renowned MassKara Festival dancers of Bacolod City during the last night of the two-day "Best of Negros Occidental Festival" held recently at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate.

FOUR DIGIT
1 4 3 0
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
0 1 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
11 16 19 28 30 37

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Most mayors give nod to GMA bid

By Tarra Quismundo, Margaux Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to run for the highest post in the land has the support of most Metro Manila mayors.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza gave the President a ringing endorsement when he said that "a great majority of Metro Manila mayors will support" her in 2004.

Atienza yesterday said in a press conference that the Liberal Party, of which he is executive vice chairman, is "solidly behind" the President when she seeks the people's mandate in May next year.

Atienza, who is also the president of the Metro Manila Mayor's League, added that Ms Macapagal's Dec. 30 announcement not to run for president had negative effects on the country's economy.

Her recent declaration, he said, would be best for the country since "uncertainties cause destabilization."

In Makati City, Mayor Jejomar Binay had taken a cautious stance.

Binay yesterday said that although a majority of the mayors are behind the President, that "majority is not unanimous."

"Majority means only nine of the mayors support the President's decision, how about the other eight?" Binay told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Binay is national president of the PDP-Laban.

The mayor, through his spokesperson Lito Anzures, also said that PDP-Laban is still in the process of consulting with the other leaders before they can come out with a unified stand on the President's decision.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, on the other hand, said he is fully behind the President.

In a press conference yesterday at the MMDA office in Makati City, Fernando said the President's decision to run "does not make her less of a person."

"In fact I admire her resolve," he added.

Fernando said he believed that the President's reason for running is for the service of the country "which is a noble cause."

Fernando yesterday also said that he is firm on his decision to run for vice president, but he still has to decide on his next step.

Fernando belongs to the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats Party.

Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo echoed Fernando' sentiments, even as he denounced politicians who jump from one political party to another, describing their behavior as dishonorable.

"Those (politicians) have no commitment to their party," Malonzo yesterday said in Filipino. "They have no *palabra de honor* (word of honor)."

Malonzo also said that Ms Macapagal's announcement not only put an end to doubts in the LAKAS-NUCD party, it also strengthened the party's chances in 2004.

"She is the candidate to beat," Malonzo said.

Valenzuela City mayor Bobbit Carlos also told the INQUIRER that among the presidentiables, Ms Macapagal was "the most experienced."

Even Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, also said he would support Ms Macapagal's presidential bid.

Earlier, NPC officers announced the party would forge a coalition with Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Among their choices as standard bearer are business tycoon Danding Cojuanco and actor Fernando Poe Jr.

The NPC used to be have ties with the administration party Lakas NUCD.

Tiangco also dismissed criticisms that the President should not have backtracked from her earlier announcement that she would not run in 2004.

"I think each person has the right to change her mind," Tiangco said.

With a report from Christine Paita

FILIPINOS BEWARE!
NO TERR

PROTESTERS are having a field day burning up pictures of President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush during a rally near the US Embassy in Manila. The protesters yesterday condemned Mr. Bush's upcoming visit to the country on Oct. 18. REUTERS

Vitamin Sale! Tel. 687-5023
We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!
- Skin Whitener (Glutathione). 100-500mg: P17. – P40. • Glucosamine. 750mg: P11.
- Nat. Vitamin E. 400iu: P6. • Fish Oil: P4.
- Grapeseed Ext. 100mg: P12. • Ginkgo: P7
- CoenzymQ10. 30mg: P16. • Vitamin C: P2.
- Spirulina. 500mg: P5. • MultiVitamin: P2.50

Unit 715 City & Land Mega Plaza *(behind Robinson's Galleria)*. • Cell 0918-3461156

TRADING & DISTRIBUTION SOFTWARE
FOR FAST, RELIABLE, WORRY-FREE & AFFORDABLE BUSINESS AUTOMATION
STANDARD FEATURES:
INVOICE TRANSACTIONS
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES
COUNTER & COLLECTION ALERT
INVENTORY
SALES REPORTS
SUPPLIER REPORT
PURCHASES REPORT
PRODUCT REPORT
WAREHOUSING
COMPARATIVE TIME ANALYSIS : (SALES, CUSTOMERS, PRODUCTS, SUPPLIERS)
+ + + 670 DIFFERENT REPORTS ! ! !
*** Other Features & reports are available for Customization ***
FREE SOFTWARE DEMO FOR GMA-LUZON
ViTAMiNS
Software & Storage Solutions
3/F CTF Tower, 34 San Rafael St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (+632) 5312675/ (+632) 5357818
Telefax: (+632) 5319615
E-mail Address: info@vitaminssoftware.com
Website://http.www.vitaminssoftware.com

Motorists lash out at PNCC over monstrous SLEX jam

MOTORISTS who were caught in a monstrous 7-hour traffic jam on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) last Sunday have nothing but bitter words for the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC), the company that maintains the highway.

The traffic jam, the worst in recent months, was caused by vehicles stalled in a flooded portion of the highway.

Irate motorists blamed the PNCC for its failure to warn them of the flooding in the San Pedro, Laguna part of the Slex. As early as 2 p.m. Sunday, the highway had become impassable due to the stalled vehicles.

According to Calamba resident Lani Herrera, PNCC officials should have placed signs on toll exits to warn them of the flooded area ahead.

"If only they had warned us earlier, we could have taken the service roads, or maybe we could have just turned back," Herrera said. "But they placed their signs only about 300 meters from where the traffic started."

But PNCC security officer Alex Dator yesterday denied that they had failed to warn the motorists.

He said they had posted signs for travelers to take the alternative route via the Carmona exit about 3 kilometers from the flooded area.

"But they (motorists) didn't heed our warning," Dator said in a telephone interview. "Maybe they tried to see for themselves what caused the problem."

He said they were able to restore normal vehicular flow at 9:20 p.m. But the bottleneck on the northbound portion of the highway remained until midnight. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Settlers had it wrong, says UP

By Tina Santos

A UNIVERSITY of the Philippines official yesterday said that the informal dwellers who want to settle in the Arboretum forest park have misinterpreted the order of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Rogelio Pizarro.

UP President Francisco Nemenzo, in a phone interview, said that Judge Pizarro's order only banned the UP Police Force and other law enforcement agencies from entering the property.

"But it doesn't mean they (informal dwellers) can go back and settle on the property," Nemenzo said. "That's not how you interpret the order."

Pizarro had ordered authorities not to enter the property to oust settlers in the 20-hectare rainforest.

But the settlers had taken the order to mean that they "could go back home."

"For us, the court order is clear—residents can reclaim the property and live there peacefully," said Rick Bello, spokesperson of one of the property claimants, Abdul Raof Dimaporo. "We hope they would respect the law."

At press time yesterday, hundreds of families continue to gather outside the Arboretum, waiting to reclaim the land.

The area remains under tight guard.

"My Air Conditioner gives me Clean, Cool, Quality Air."
"How about Yours?"
Aircon-Purifier
with 3 STAGES OF AIR PURIFICATION
1. NYLON PRE FILTER
Traps large particles of dust, fibers, pet danders, etc
2. POWERFUL MULTI-POINT ELECTROSTATIC FILTER
Acts like a magnet which attracts and traps smoke, micro-dust, pollens and other pollutants not visible to the naked eye.
3. ANTI-BACTERIAL FILTER Titanium Dioxide PLUS
This filter effectively eliminates harmful bacteria and viruses to avoid the spread of contagious diseases
Why settle for an air conditioner that could only provide you with cool air, when in fact you can have clean, cool, quality air in your room.
With UNI-AIR Aircon-Purifier your assured of a healthy lifestyle.
TO FIND OUT MORE CALL 821-7260
UNI-AIR® 友利
For Clean, Cool, Quality Air

KIA VANS
MAKE LIFE EASIER!
• 4x2 / 4x4 Series
Also Available,
• Dropside
• Stroke Body
• Aluminum Van
• Chassis Cab
• Trash Buggy
• Ambulance
• Refrigerated Van
Panoramic
KC 2700 CARRY ALL
• Quad Cam 24 Valve
★★★★★ Rating
• U.S. National Highway Safety Association
NEW
SEDONA 2.5 V6 GAS ENGINE
• Extended Front Bumper
• Reverse Sensing System
• Keyless Entry w/ Alarm
• LCD Type Monitor w/ VCD Player
PREGIO GS NEO
KIA BALINTAWAK *(Signet Balintawak)*
1240 EDSA Balintawak, Q.C.
(Sales) 361-0544; 330-8019; 330-6670
(Service) 330-6708; 330-7668
Fax: 362-8357
KIA MANDALUYONG *(Signet Mand.)*
# 79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949;
531-4424 Fax: 531-4380
KIA MAKATI *(Signet Makati)*
La Fuerza Plaza
2241 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City
Tels.: 817-8416; 817-8417; 817-8406
Telefax: 817-8421
KIA LAS PIÑAS *(Signet Las Piñas)*
(In front of SM Southmall)
Tels.: 801-7656; 801-7668;
802-1024; 806-2235 Telefax:806-2230
SIGNET

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SUAREZ lifts his trophy. AP

Hero's welcome for Suarez today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NEWLY crowned bowling World Cup champion Christian John "CJ" Suarez, the newest toast of Philippine sports, will get a hero's welcome when he arrives tomorrow.

A motorcade, followed by an elaborate welcome ceremony, awaits the 24-year-old Suarez, who became just the fourth Filipino to win the prestigious event.

He is expected to arrive together with Jojo Cañare at 7 a.m. aboard a Philippine Airlines flight from Honduras to Manila via San Francisco.

Cañare finished fourth in the women's bracket, in the process securing for the Philippines the Best Country Performance award in the competition among 75 nations.

From the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the motorcade will proceed to Suarez's home lane at Bowling Inn along Taft Avenue where Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros and other top sports officials will lead the welcome rites for the two sports stars.

"Good things keep coming bowling's way," Hontiveros told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I hope CJ's victory will spark the re-emergence of bowling in the country."

Hontiveros himself just got back from Rhode Island, home base of the FIQ (International Bowling Federation) which recently elected him president.

His election as FIQ head was followed by the country's gold medal performance in the women's trio in the World Bowling Championship courtesy of Cecilia Yap, Liza del Rosario and Liza Clutario.

Clutario went on to seize a bronze medal in the all-events and a silver in the women's Masters.

Jose G. Puyat, chairman of the Puyat Sports group, also hailed the performances of Suarez and Cañare that extended the long tradition of Filipino triumphs in the world's most prestigious individual bowling tournament.

Suarez followed the path of the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno, who achieved the feat in 1978 in Tehran, 1980 in Jakarta, 1992 in Le Mans, France and 1996 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

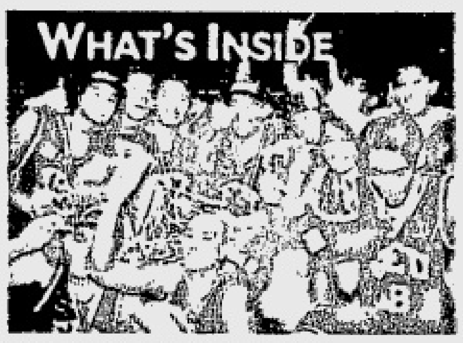
Bong Coo also won the ladies crown in 1979 in Bangkok, while Lita del Rosario triumphed in 1978 in Bogota, Colombia.

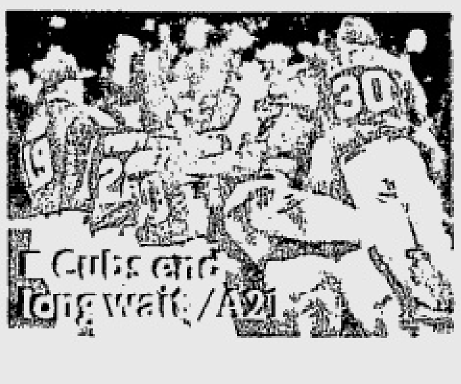
Puyat Sports, organizer since 1967 of the annual Philippine participation in the AMF Bowling World Cup, reiterated its pledge to support bowlers and billiards players whose skill, spirit and sportsmanship win accolades for the country.

Suarez, who missed the cut for the quarterfinals last year by just two pins, showed his preparedness this time by beating Marcel van den Bosch of the Netherlands in the race-to-two finale, 205-202 and 232-209.

It came after a come-from-behind 2-1 victory (189-264, 265-214, 182-178) over last year's titlist, Mika Luoto of Finland, in the semis.

WHAT'S INSIDE


Tams rewarded for hard work /A20


Cubs end long wait /A21

TOP QUALITY AFFORDABLE 4x4 VANS!!!
FREE! CAR ALARM
2.5L Turbo Diesel Automatic Transmission
Dual Aircon
Captain Seats
Bullbar & Foglamps
Sunroof / Crystal Roof
MARC MOTORS
BECAUSE WE KNOW YOU COMPANY
1013-A EDSA, Proj.7, Q.C.
Tel. 372-3640

A lot more than just co-hosting the SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE CAPACITY to organize its own opening ceremony and provide accommodation to athletes and officials will be the major requirements for the six cities and two provinces bidding to co-stage the 2005 Southeast Asian Games with Manila.

Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Celso Dayrit yesterday said he would ask the prospective co-hosts to reevaluate their bids after the guidelines are finalized in November.

The bidders are Tubod, Lanao del Norte; Bacolod City; Cebu City; Gen. Santos City; Naga City; Pampanga; Baguio City and Puerto Princesa.

Dayrit said the satellite venues don't have to be in the Visayas and Mindanao as long as they can comply with requirements the Philsoc will set.

The Philsoc is trying to follow the example of Vietnam which will host the SEAG this December in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Haishung. The three SEAG venues will hold separate but simultaneous opening ceremonies on top of providing accommodation for athletes and officials.

"Aside from the capability to organize its own opening ceremony, we would also like to find out if they can accommodate the athletes and officials going there," said Dayrit.

They will also have to shoulder the accommodation of the heads of delegations which number from four to five officials per national Olympic committee.

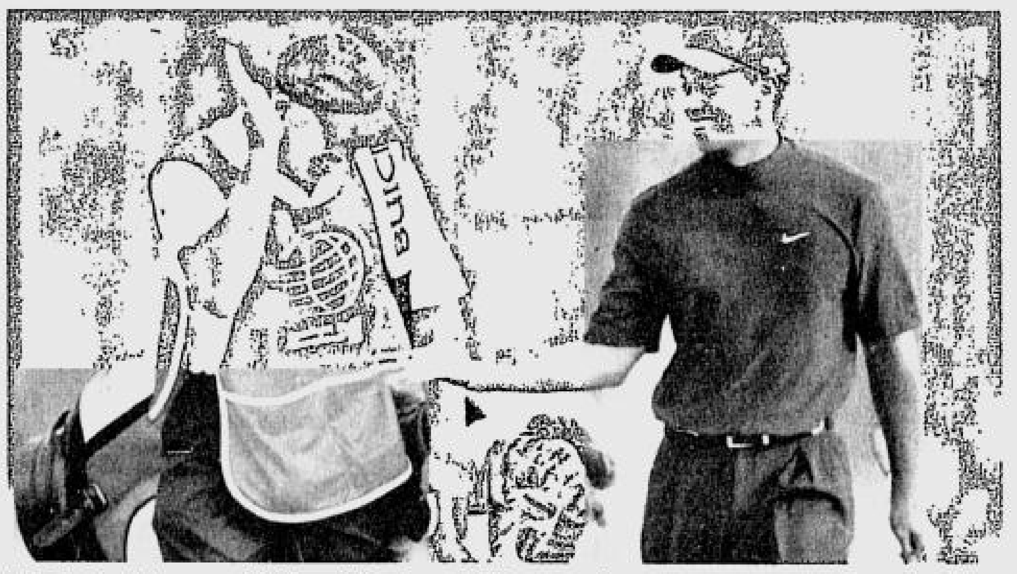
However, the Philsoc will subsidize the $30-per-person-per-day board and lodging of the delegates.

For sure, the aspiring cities and provinces will have to shell out money in order to stage the event, according to Dayrit.

"Having the right to co-host the Games would of course have an attendant cost for them," he added.

All games were held in Metro Manila during the two times the country hosted the SEAG, in 1981 and 1991.

ANOTHER FIRST FROM
MARC BY SURESTE
THE NEW! OVERLAP FLAP
FOR ADDED DIRT PROTECTION
▫ WITH BUILT-IN COURTESY LIGHTS
▫ CUSTOM BRACKET NO-HOLES BORED INSTALLATION WITH RUBBER ANTI-SLIP OVERLAY
▫ NEW STYLISH HUGGING ABS ENDCAPS
FREE! RAIN-DOOR VISOR or DASHIELD FOR EVERY PURCHASE
OFFER GOOD UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST
FOR FUEGO
ALSO AVAILABLE FOR FRONTIER & RANGER
VALID AT 1013 EDSA, Q.C. · TEL.NO. 410-3067/410-3065/372-3640


WOODS celebrates with his caddie, Steve Williams, as they walk up to the 18th green. AFP

Wondrous Woods wins in Woodstock

WOODSTOCK, Georgia—Against the best players in the world, in the toughest conditions this side of a major, Tiger Woods felt right at home.

With momentum slipping away, he hit a delicate flop shot out of the first cut of rough that carried a bunker and stopped 4 feet away for a crucial par. With his lead down to one, he blistered a 4-iron to the back of the green to set up an easy birdie.

When it was over, Woods left no doubt who was the best in the world at the American Express Championship.

"Any time you get to play against the best players . . . that's when it's the most challenging," Woods said. "It's not a watered-down field. That's what makes it so difficult to try to win these tournaments."

With bogeys he could afford on the final two holes, Woods closed with a 2-over 72—only the fourth time in 39 victories on the PGA Tour he won with a final round over par—for a two-shot victory over Vijay Singh, Tim Herron and Stuart Appleby.

It was Woods' fifth victory of the year, and his seventh World Golf Championship in 13 tries. Only Darren Clarke has won more than one since the series began in 1999.

And it might be enough for his peers to vote Woods the PGA Tour player of the year for an unprecedented fifth straight time.

"To win against this field, on this golf course with a major-type set-up, it will have a lot of weight to it," David Toms said after a 65 left him alone in fifth.

"I think he's a shoo-in," Appleby said.

Woods finished at 6-under 274, the third-highest winning score this year behind the British Open (1-under 283) and the PGA Championship (4-under 276).

He won $1.05 million to replace Singh atop the money list by about $170,000.

Woods has only two tournaments left—Disney and the Tour Championship—and said anything could happen over the final month of the season.

The only thing he was willing to celebrate Sunday at the Capital City Club was the 100th victory for his caddie, Steve Williams, who previously carried the bag for Peter Thomson, Greg Norman and Raymond Floyd.

"People have no idea how big this win was," Woods said. "It's not just the player of the year or the money title, it was Stevie's 100th win. He's meant a lot to a lot of the success I've had."

Woods is 30-2 when having at least a share of the 54-hole lead. *AP*

Banal returns to PBA ruing Ateneo's loss

By June Navarro

IT WOULD probably take more days, even weeks, before Joel Banal finally gets over the Ateneo Eagles' recent debacle in the finals of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

And he hopes the pain of losing against brother Koy of the FEU Tamaraws doesn't affect his coaching chores with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the Philippine Basketball Association.

"It's not going to be easy recovering from that painful loss. I'll just try not to bring it in the PBA," said Banal a day after his Eagles lost their title to the Tamaraws, 69-56, in Game 2 of their best-of-three UAAP men's basketball championship series.

Banal, who steered the Blue Eagles to their first UAAP crown last year after a 14-year title drought, will return to the Phone Pals starting tomorrow when the team works out at the Reyes Gym.

"But I will not plunge into coaching at once. It would be better if I watch and observe the team's practice for a couple of days before calling the shots again," said Banal, who took a leave from the Manny V. Pangilinan-owned ballclub to handle the Eagles' title defense in July.

In his absence, assistant coach Ariel Vanguardia was elevated as interim head coach.

Banal will formally take over when the Phone Pals battle the Barangay Ginebra Kings on Oct. 15 with Talk 'N Text toting a 6-3 record in Group B.

Peña sizzles

DORIAN Peña is making the most out of the second chance given him by the PBA.

After serving a four-month suspension for failing a drug test, Peña is playing with vengeance for the San Miguel Beermen.

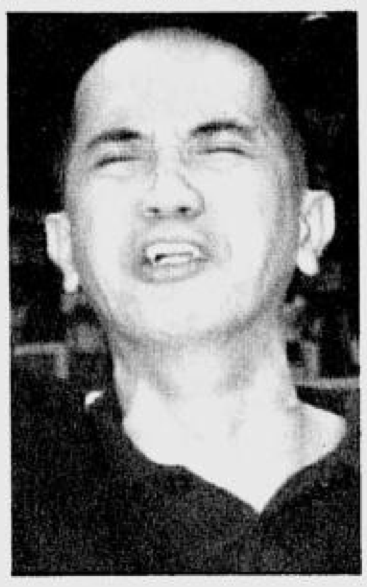
He hit 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds when he checked in against Shell, then led San Miguel to an 82-75 win over Talk 'N Text.

These earned for Peña Player of the Week honors for Sept. 29 to Oct. 5.

WANT TO FEEL GOOD?
MAKE YOUR CARS REALLY SHINE!
Ziebart. DIAMOND GLOSS PAINT PROTECTION
EVEN BRAND NEW CARS BECOME SHINIER!
Lifetime Guaranteed* Paint Protection against:
Loss of Gloss • Acid Rain Damage • Paint Oxidation
Water Spots • Tree Sap • Bugs • Bird Droppings
Developed from aerospace paint protection technology, Ziebart's new proprietary Diamond Gloss™ is made of the same base material applied on aircraft to prevent paint damage from jet exhaust heat and extended exposure to harsh environmental conditions. It's so superior that there's simply nothing like it.
Nothing else can give your vehicles - brand new or old - better protection!
Diamond Gloss™. For the brightest, smoothest shine!
HURRY! LIMITED PROMO PERIOD ONLY!
25% OFF
ON ANY TWO MAJOR ZIEBART TIDYCAR SERVICES
• RUST PROTECTION • SOUND BARRIER • UPGRADE FROM UNDERSIDE • GOLD CARE DETAILING WITH DIAMOND GLOSS PAINT PROTECTION • ZEE-GLAZE PAINT PROTECTION • ANTI-BACTERIAL DETAILING (INNER GUARD, FULL DETAILING, FULL INTERIOR) • ZIEBART AND LLUMAR TINTS
the CARSAVERS COMPLETE AUTO SERVICES AND BODY REPAIRS
www.carsavers.com
FASTEST BODY REPAIR & PAINT JOBS
CALL OR DRIVE IN TODAY!
• MAKATI: 889 4144 • MANILA 525 6273 / 526 6294 • PASIG 671 9801 to 05
• CEBU: (032) 232 3715 • BATANGAS: (043) 300 7968 to 69
*Lifetime Guarantee is transferable, but requires annual general cleaning and renewal service. Nominal prices at effect at time of service will be charged. Applies on brand new and defect free repainted jobs.

THE FEU Tamaraws lap it up after sweeping the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP final. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Tams rewarded for hard work



KOY BANAL: On cloud nine

By Dennis U. Eroa

LOOK what a piece of paper can do to a team wanting to grab a slice of UAAP basketball greatness.

Weeks after failing to make last year's Final Four, coach Koy Banal called the Far Eastern University team to a meeting to discuss the Tamaraws' basketball future.

Banal, always cool under pressure, surprised the wide-eyed Tamaraws by telling them to sign a covenant defining their future.

"It was a commitment to excellence and a promise to improve not only as individuals but as a team," Banal recalled.

Obviously, the Tamaraws took the covenant to heart. Despite a not-so strong lineup, they finished runner-up to powerhouse St. Francis of Asissi in the UniGames in Dumaguete in October, and made heads turn with another second-place finish in the PBL Unity Cup carrying the colors of Viva Mineral Water.

Banal, however, knew that the ultimate test would be the Tamaraws' campaign in the 66th UAAP season.

Despite its glorious cage history and rigorous preparation, FEU didn't rate as high as defending champion Ateneo, four-time titleholder La Salle, Santo Tomas and University of the East.

However, putting its PBL experience to good use, the Tamaraws slowly but surely vanquished their foes. FEU dominated UE in the Final Four then capped a starry campaign by dethroning Ateneo, coached by his elder brother Joel, in the best-of-three championship series.

While the Ateneo-FEU clashes lacked the electricity and blood of the tumultuos Ateneo-La Salle rivalry, the title series was pregnant with emotions.

For one, this marked the first time in the history of UAAP basketball that the championship featured a brothers act. Because of their surnames and, more importantly, their unwavering faith to the Almighty, observers dubbed the series as a "Holy War."

After the Tamaraws posted a masterful 69-56 win in Game Two to sweep the series, the elder Joel hugged the teary-eyed Koy tightly and whispered something. "He (Joel) told me that I deserved to win. Now, we can really talk," said Koy.

Jovencia, the 75-year-old mother of the Banals, watched as the brothers act unfolded before thousands of spectators at the Araneta Coliseum..

Koy had mixed emotions when he met the press.

"I'm on cloud nine right now. On the other hand, I also felt sad because I beat my brother. I love and respect him. Most of my coaching principles came from him," Koy said after winning his first UAAP title in four years at the helm of FEU.

Koy proved his worth as coach right in his rookie year by steering the Morayta-based hoopsters to the finals. But the team bannered by now pros Leo Avenido and Edwin Bacani and national team playmaker Celino Cruz bowed to La Salle, which won its third straight title behind the heroics of Ren Ren Ritualo, Mon Jose and a rookie named Mike Cortez.

But Koy persevered and slowly assembled what finally became a champion team.

A masterful 83-65 Game One win hinted of things to come. Ateneo, of course, wasn't going to surrender easily, but at the end the Eagles, emotionally and physically drained by their gruelling semis duel with the Archers, were a step slower against the determined Tamaraws.

"The team's desire to win was overpowering. It was by the grace of God that we won the title," said Banal.

Banal backed up by a coaching staff composed of ex-Tamaraws Bert Flores and Michael Oliver, Pons de Vera and Eric Gonzales, stymied Ateneo's offense with a straight-up, honest defense.

Arwind Santos, although failing to light up the scoreboard in Game Two, helped Ryan Rizada, Jeff Chan, Cesar Catli and Rhagnee Sinco sizzle.

Point guard Dennis Miranda was foxy as ever, while big men Gerard Jones and Mark Isip ruled the shaded lane with impunity.

What's next for the Tamaraws?

The 6-foot-4 Jones, this year's team leader, Catli, injury-prone James Zablan, defensive specialist Sinco and seldom-used Jerome Gadiane will no longer be around as the Tamaraws, now with 18 titles, gun for a back-to-back title. The core of the team will again don Viva Mineral Water's colors in the PBL Platinum Cup slated next month.

"God is good. I leave everything to God," Koy said. Amen.

Joel's cup runneth over

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT could Joel Banal have whispered on the ear of Koy Banal? I saw it on TV's Channel 23.

I wanted to know.

I'm sure it was something that should enrich UAAP basketball lore. I would have asked Joel about it if I was at the Araneta Coliseum. But I wasn't there this historic Sunday evening, when Koy Banal and the Far Eastern University Tamaraws beat Joel Banal and his Ateneo Blue Eagles, 69-56, for the UAAP seniors basketball crown. ABS-CBN's Peter Musngi had offered tickets for the game; thank you, Peter. But I wasn't feeling well and had to content myself watching the action in my living room. I did the same in Game 1, when FEU routed Ateneo, 83-65.

I do not know how to get in touch with either Joel or Koy. They seem to not own cell phones.

But let me speculate. Maybe, Joel Banal whispered the following:

"Well done, brother. But this time, God could have played favorites. And He picked you. I'm not complaining, though. I've had mine last year. God is fair. Praise God."

Everybody knows by now how prayerful the Brothers Banal are. Everything that happens in this world, they unabashedly attribute to God. A very healthy habit, I must say. Positive.

But, of course, they won't take offense if people would have ideas about how the best-of-three series went. Or, if some quarters would have a contrary opinion, sometimes even bordering on the sarcastic.

Many mortals in our midst have a way of explaining, interpreting, earthly phenomenon. The trick is to always understand the nature of man: Always analytical, if not argumentative.

Take my case. I sometimes take unpopular positions, or come up with ideas that are not of the ordinary. When some people don't buy my line, I am not offended at all. Goes with the territory.

Like, I believe Ateneo lost its crown because it had no answer to the choking defense of FEU. If you can't believe that, fine.

Also, Ateneo lost because it had no answer to the blazing guns of FEU. If you can't believe that, fine.

And, yes, Ateneo lost because it seemed to have lost all appetite to win after successfully achieving the one mission that matters most season after season since the UAAP's inception 66 seasons ago: Humiliating its archrival De La Salle. If you can't believe that, too, fine.

Look, Ateneo eliminated De La Salle from the Finals for the first time in 11 years and, to the Eagles, what could be a more fulfilling achievement than that? For both schools, ousting the other out of the championship picture is the ultimate joy year in and year out. Winning the crown is but only a bonus.

Oh, yes, the Eagles must have been dog-tired after those two bruising games against the Archers, the reason Ateneo got battered twice to surrender the crown to FEU. Surely, that hastened the downfall of the Eagles from their perch.

God, indeed, must be just.

First, He allowed Ateneo to dispatch De La Salle, perhaps by way of also rebuking Archer coach Franz Pumaren for Pumaren's reckless, if not blasphemous, remark that "God must have watched a different Ateneo-De La Salle game" in describing the Archers' 76-72 overtime win over the Eagles in the Final 4's Game 1. Next, He made Joel Banal taste defeat, too, in exchange for his little brother's success.

Joel Banal's cup has runneth over, remember?

Aside from last year's UAAP title, he also has the PBL title tucked under his belt, and the PBA All-Filipino crown that he had wrapped up early this year for Talk 'N Text; the last one Joel did by sweeping all four games after losing the first two to Coca-Cola in the best-of-seven playoffs. A record, mind you. From Talk 'N Text, Joel shuttled back to Ateneo. Wasn't that his undoing?

For, if God-fearing we must all be, heed God's counsel. You can't serve two masters at the same time.

Ah, the vicissitudes of life.

Grachiya, Fas fives forge title clash

CEBU CITY—Grachiya Energy Boosters shocked Montaña Pawnshop, 63-61, Sunday to arrange an all-Cebuano showdown with Fash Liquid Power in the 2003 PBL-CBF Dual Meet at the University of Visayas gym here.

Grachiya, formerly known as Casino Rubbing Alcohol, leaned on veteran forward John Velasco's jumper with less than 10 seconds to go to send the club to the titular match of this tournament celebrating the partnership of the Manila-based Philippine Basketball League and the Cebu Basketball Federation.

Actually, both the Jewels and Energy Boosters finished with 3-2 win-loss slates, but Grachiya advanced due to the winner-over-the-other rule.

Fas blasted All-Care Insurance, 106-83, to top the six-team elims with a 4-1 mark.

The finals is set Monday night.

Fash led 26-15 after the first period then opened the second quarter with a bristling 13-0 run to virtually seal the game's outcome.

Defending champion Blu Detergent salvaged fifth place by routing Granny Goose, 80-60, in the nightcap. Blu finished at 2-3.

SPORTSWATCH

De Leon, Viray lead SLETBA kegfest

ELMER de Leon and Bluejhay Viray showed the way yesterday as action in the 7th SLETBA Open Championships moved into high gear at the Sta. Lucia East Grandmall. De Leon paced the Open masters division with 932 pinfalls, while Viray paced the men's singles and all-events after two days of action in the week-long meet sponsored by Red Bull Barako, Panasonic Mobile phone, Fortune Tobacco, Freysinet, New Solanie Hotel and On The Grill Restaurant. Jojo Cañare, fresh from her fourth-place finish in the recently concluded AMF Bowling World Cup in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, is expected to make it to the tournament as a late entry. Cañare is to join fellow RP team members Liza Clutario, a member of the Philippine trio that bagged the gold medal in the last World Bowling Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Irene Garcia-Benitez in the battle for the P60,000 top purse in the Masters event. Some 180 bowlers are already in the fold and more are expected to join the Philippine Bowling Congress-sanctioned event, according to Sletba president Erwin Bernardino, who predicted that entries will exceed 300. The other class leaders are Tobs Renacia in the associate masters (876), Dennis Ramirez in all-events (1671) and Marissa Campita in the women's all-events (839).

RP U-17 booters leave for Vietnam

THE NATIONAL Under-17 football squad, known as the RP U-17, takes off for Vietnam this morning to vie in the single round sub-regional Under-17 eliminations beginning next week. The Filipinos take on the Cambodians on Monday and then the host Vietnamese on Wednesday. The winner of this competition qualifies for the Asian Football Confederation U-17 Championship in September. The RP U-17 is made up of Aivahn Boblo, Nathaniel Elmar, Jaypee Coopera, John Gallardo, Francis Gustilo, Robert Lecoto, Nicolas Leonora Jr, Charlie Lim, Mark Lusong, Mark Marcaida, Junel Poblacion, Arson Seran, John Sillo, Glester Sobremisana, Nestor Voan, Nikko Villa, Joe Vincent Villanueva and Dominique Gallego. Players listed as alternates are Marcus Alvarez, Albert Francisco and James Zerna. Officials accompanying the 18-member squad are National Training Center chief Cyril Dofitas, head coach Pancho Zulla, assistant coach Doming Subo and team manager Luis Perez.

West Negros booters power on

BACOLOD CITY—West Negros College crushed University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, 13-0, and Ramon Torres National High-Louisiana, 7-2, recently to remain as one of the top favorites in the Negros Occidental provincial Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations here. Alvin Espinosa knocked in four goals against UNO-R and Romeo Alcoran matched that output against RTNHS-Louisiana to emerge WNC's leading scorers in the tournament sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Phils. Colegio Santo Tomas-Recoletos, RTNHS-Main, Don Bosco Technical Institute and La Consolacion Gardenville also posted two victories each. CST-R blasted UNO-R, 7-0, and Antipolo National High, 9-0; RTNHS-Main whipped Victorias NHS and Ponteverda NHS by identical 7-1 scores; DBTI routed Our Lady of Pilar Academy, 10-0, and Rafael B. Lacson NHS, 4-0; and LCS-Gardenville outsteadied St. Michael Academy, 4-0, and Don Vicente Gustilo NHS, 1-0. In other games, University of St. La Salle clobbered Domingo Lacson NHS, 7-0, behind Jason Padilla's six goals, but fell to Catalino Soluguen Memorial NHS, 8-0; RTNH-Louisiana drew with Handuman NHS, 3-3; and Ponteverda NHS beat Victorias NHS, 2-0. In Davao City, Rizal Memorial Colleges produced another lopsided triumph by tripping Daniel R. Aguinaldo NHS, 7-1. In other games, Holy Child-Main nipped Doña Carmen NHS, 2-1; Emar Learning Center topped Ateneo de Davao, 3-1; and Holy Child-Mintal downed Agro High, 3-1.

St. Benedict cagebelles face CSB

ST. BENEDICT College played true to form to beat Rizal Technological University, 60-49, at the St. Scholastica's College gym Sunday and earned the right to face College of St. Benilde in the finals of the 34th WNCAA-adidas seniors basketball. The second-ranked SBC lost to RTU during the semifinal opener on Saturday, 55-45, necessitating the winner-take-all match. The best-of-three championship series begins on Oct. 17 at the St. Scho gym (basketball) and RTU gym (volleyball). Defending basketball midgets champion Assumption College will take on Miriam College while defending juniors winner Miriam battles the De La Salle-Zobel. In volleyball, Siena College and DLS-Z will dispute the midgets title, defending champion Miriam and DLS-Z will slug it out in the juniors level while Lyceum defends its seniors title against RTU.

Riders joining Macau Supercross

AGUILAR

NAMSSA Caltex riders Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres will represent the Philippines in the fifth round of the 2003 FIM Asian Supercross Championships on Oct. 12 in Macau. The six-time national champion Aguilar leads the series and can clinch the FIM regional title for the 125-cc class with another victory on Sunday. His impressive fifth place finish in Singapore last month made Aguilar the series' virtual champion, barring DNFs (did not finish) in the remaining races. The Filipino will have his hands full staving off Indonesian riders as well as those from a host of 125-cc champions from Japan, Australia, Malaysia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia. If Aguilar wins the title, he will also clinch the Coupe Des Nations Asiatique 2003, the coveted prize awarded to the country of origin of the winning rider. Meanwhile, the 14-year-old San Andres, the reigning national junior champion, will carry the Philippine cause in the junior events. The Macau event is part of the motoring events organized by the Macau Tourism Bureau, the Macau Sports Council and the Automovel Club de Macau to usher in the 50th Macau Grand Prix slated in November. The Philippine team is supported also by Air Macau.

Guya, Mayor duel heats up in exec chess

GRAND Prix leader Tyrone Guya and defending champion Jenny Mayor are locked in a tight race for the championship in the Elite section as the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express enters the homestretch with its eighth leg on Oct. 25 at the Land Bank in Malate, Manila. Mayor cut Guya's lead to just a point after finishing second to Ravel Canlas in the seventh leg recently. Guya totalled 117 points to Mayor's 116. Rounding out the top 10 in the Elite section are Canlas and Ryan Ruiz, both with 92 points; Quirino Sagario 89, Noel Garcia 83, Edwin Lorenzo 70, Verth Alora 54, Dennis San Juan 53 and Alfredo Paez 43. In the Classic Section, Ramil Acosta holds a comfortable lead over Richard Villaseran with 108, to the latter's 96. Rey Reyes is third with 95 followed by Christopher Castellano 84, James Infiesto 75, Rolando Gangozo 74, Raul Villate 64, Abraham Dalagan 61, Renier Temura 61, and Orlando Pascual 58. Interested executives and professionals may call Acca at 892-0279 and 892-8759 for reservations.

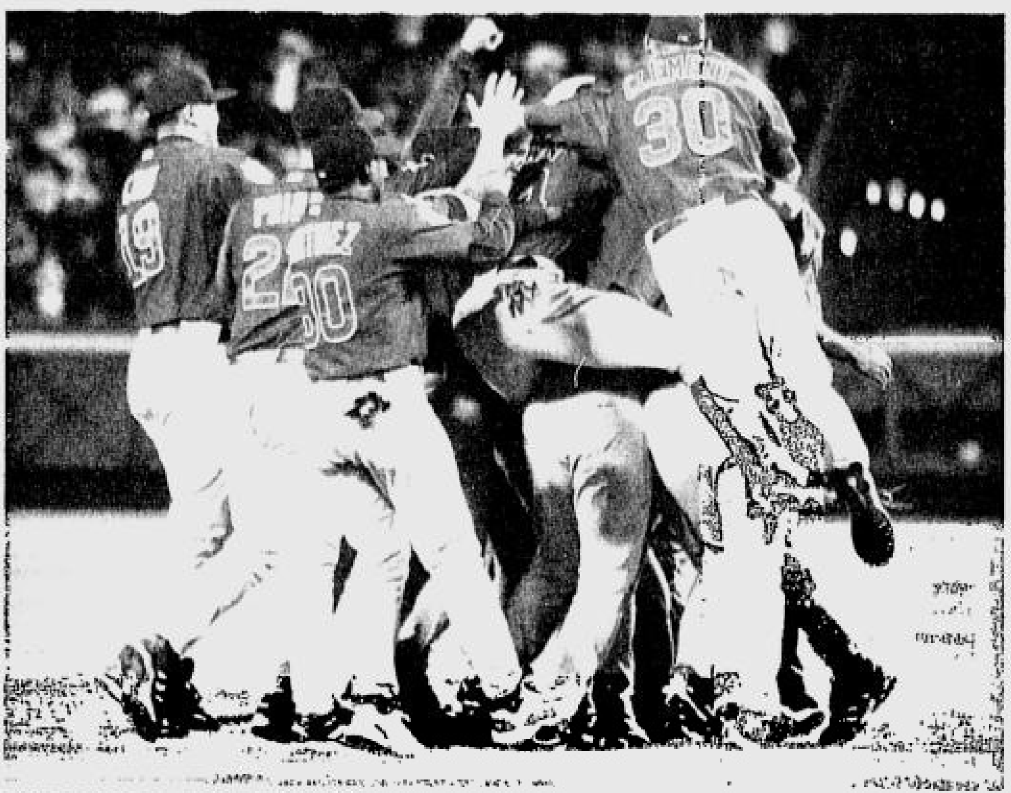
Navy wrestlers dominate UP tourney

THE PHILIPPINE Navy Wrestling Team took the overall title in the recently concluded UP Olympic Wrestling Club 2nd Wrestling Open held at the Vanguard Bldg. in UP Diliman, Quezon City. The Navymen, led by playing coach Antonio Gonato, bagged four golds and four silvers, with Michael Tumasis (55 kg) and Bernie Tuya (96 kg) ruling their weight divisions. Competitors from other teams also figured prominently. Carlo Hizon of Suntokaran Todo Bakbakan surprised everyone by bagging the gold in the 84 kg. Timothy Bantola of UP-OWC and Ariel Samadio of Ideal Shape Gym won silver and bronze, respectively, in the hotly contested 74-kg category. In the 66-kg class, Michael Donggon of Makati High School stunned Nelson Tañedo of the Navy in the final, with Juancho TorRevilla of UPOWC snaring the bronze. Rodolfo Falcasantos of Zamboanga Wrestling Club ruled the 48-kg bracket. In the women's division, exceptional performances from Joan Jambora and Karen Bartolome of Makati High School; and Mary Rose Roque, Fatima Afable and Caelyn del Rosario of UP P.E. Wrestling class earned them golds in their weight classes

Grace Christian alumni caging Nov. 9

THE GRACE Christian High School Inter-batch Alumni basketball league kicks off on Nov. 9 at the GCHS gym. Conceived to renew camaraderie among graduates, the event will be jointly organized by the GCHS athletic department and the GCHS Alumni Association. "This is also our means of helping promote physical fitness among members of the Filipino-Chinese community," said tournament director Bonnie Tan. Call 0917-8194599 or 0917-7951653. Application forms are available at the GCHS gym. Veteran international referee Caloy Ramirez is the tournament commissioner.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



THE CHICAGO Cubs pile up around the mound after defeating the Atlanta Braves. AFP

Cubs end long wait

Yankees blast Twins, also advance

ATLANTA—Sammy Sosa sprinted across the outfield, high-fiving his teammates along the way. Thousands of Cubs fans sang "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" over and over.

In one magical evening, the Chicago Cubs ended 95 years of frustration.

Kerry Wood pitched another dominating game and Aramis Ramirez began the celebration with a mammoth home run, pushing the Cubs past Atlanta, 5-1, in the decisive Game 5 Sunday night for their first postseason series victory since the 1908 World Series.

The Cubs—yes, the Cubs—move on to play Florida in the National League championship series. Game 1 is Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila) at Wrigley Field.

"We heard a lot of negatives from people, and they have reason to be negative," first-year manager Dusty Baker said. "They haven't had any reason to be positive for a long time."

They do now. When Andruw Jones struck out swinging on the final pitch, flashbulbs went off around the stadium. Catcher Damian Miller threw his arms in the air, then charged the mound to embrace closer Joe Borowski. Sosa tore across the grass with his arm in the air. Wood, sitting in the dugout, pumped his fist before heading to the field to join the celebration.

In the stands, Chicago's fans shouted, hugged and derisively performed the "Tomahawk Chop"—the Braves' signature cheer.

Back in Chicago, thousands of Cubs fans streamed into the streets surrounding Wrigley Field when the game ended. Police had to shut down the streets surrounding the ballpark, and fans danced, cheered and hugged each other in an impromptu victory celebration.

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, David Wells allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings as the New York Yankees advanced to the American League Championship Series with an easy 8-1 rout of the Minnesota Twins.

Wells, who entered with 200 career wins and serves as the team's No. 4 postseason starter, was brilliant throughout.

He yielded eight hits and struck out five without a walk in improving to 8-2 lifetime in the postseason. *AP*

Germany XI, Sweden forge World Cup tiff

GAREFREKES

PORTLAND, Oregon—The Women's World Cup will be heading back to Europe as both Germany and Sweden advanced to next Sunday's final.

The Germans got an early goal and two late ones Sunday to upset the defending champion United States, 3-0, while Sweden came from behind to beat Canada, 2-1.

The final is set for next Sunday at 1700 GMT in Carson, California. The Americans, who have won two of the three previous titles, will play Canada for third place on Saturday. Norway is the only other team to have won the Women's World Cup.

The Germans, who have won five straight matches, have scored 23 goals and given up just three since the tournament started two weeks ago. Sweden's only loss came against the Americans in its opening match.

In the 2001 European Championship final, Germany beat Sweden.

Kerstin Garefrekes headed in the winning goal for Germany in the 15th minute to ensure the tournament has a new winner. Maren Meinert added the second goal in injury time and Birgit Prinz got the third seconds later.

"I've got to think that maybe this was the greatest game ever played in women's soccer," United States coach April Heinrichs said.

The Americans pressured relentlessly throughout much of the match, but were unable to get past Germany goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg, who made several fantastic saves also came up big on United States corner kicks.

Garefrekes put the Germans in the lead when she knocked a corner kick from Renate Lingor off the crossbar and into the net early in the first half.

In the second match, Victoria Svensson set up two goals to lead Sweden back from one goal down.

Svensson tapped a quick free kick to teammate Malin Mostrom in the 79th minute for the equalizing goal, and then fed Josefine Oqvist for the game-winner in the 86th. Oqvist's goal hit off the post before finding the back of the net. *AP*

Myskina, Dent win in Moscow

MOSCOW—Anastasia Myskina defeated Amelie Mauresmo, 6-2, 6-4, in the Kremlin Cup final Sunday, while Taylor Dent was crowned men's champion—the second consecutive title for both players.

Myskina became the first Russian woman to win the Kremlin Cup trophy, beating an error-prone Mauresmo, who struggled with almost every element of her game.

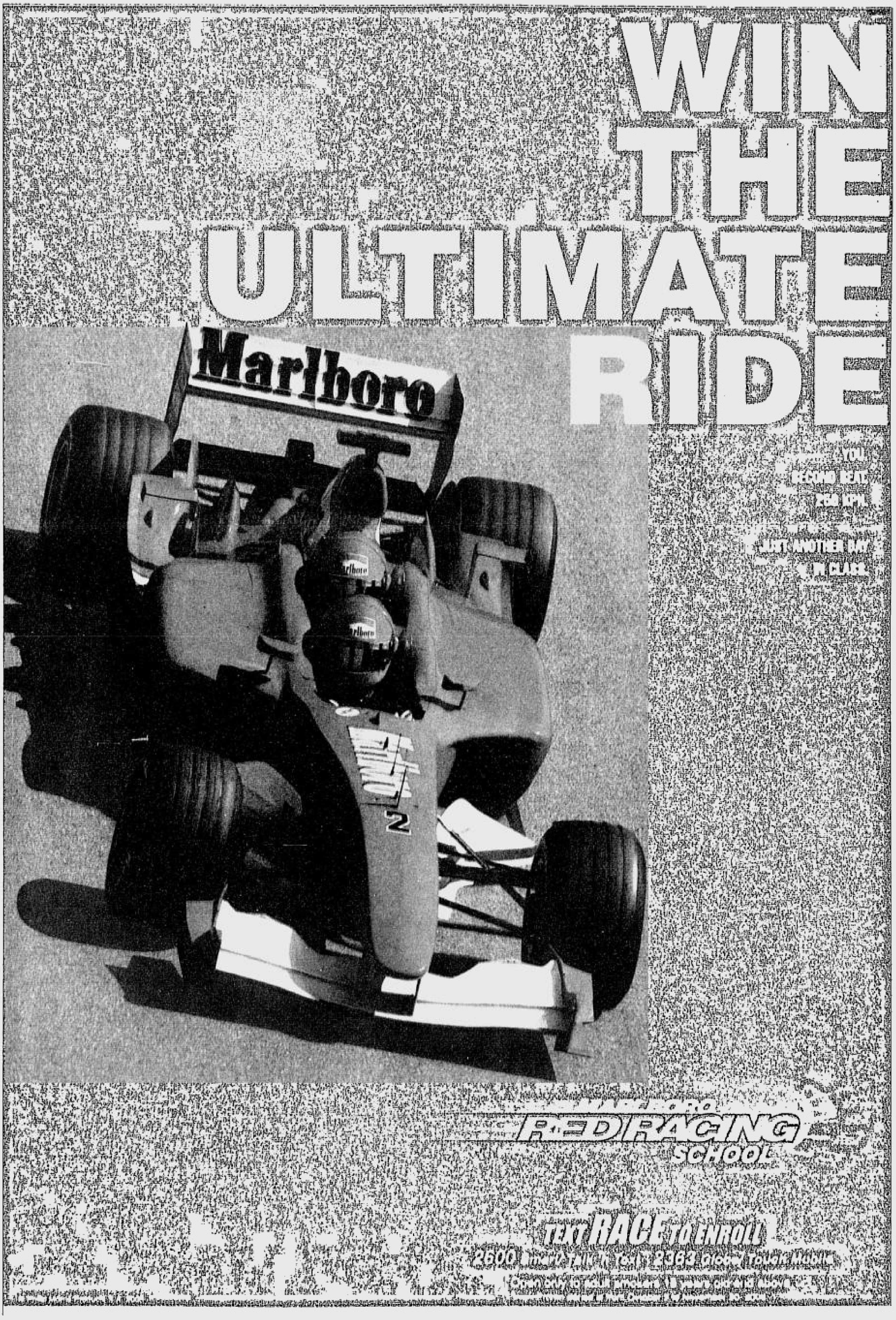
Dent defeated Sargis Sargsian, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, stretching his winning streak to 10 matches. Dent, a serve-and-volley player, was the first American to capture the Kremlin title. *AP*

Dalakhani scores

PARIS—French Derby winner Dalakhani fended off a challenge by long-shot Mubtaker to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Europe's most prestigious horse race, by three-quarters of a length Sunday.

The Aga Khan-owned three-year-old, which was 2.5-1 by French odds, won the 2.4-kilometer (1 1/2-mile) event at Longchamp in 2 minutes, 32.3 seconds, giving Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon his first Arc win.

Dalakhani, a striking grey colt trained by Alain de Royer-Dupre, had been a top favorite in Sunday's contest, which was run on soft ground at Longchamp in Paris' Bois de Boulogne. *AP*

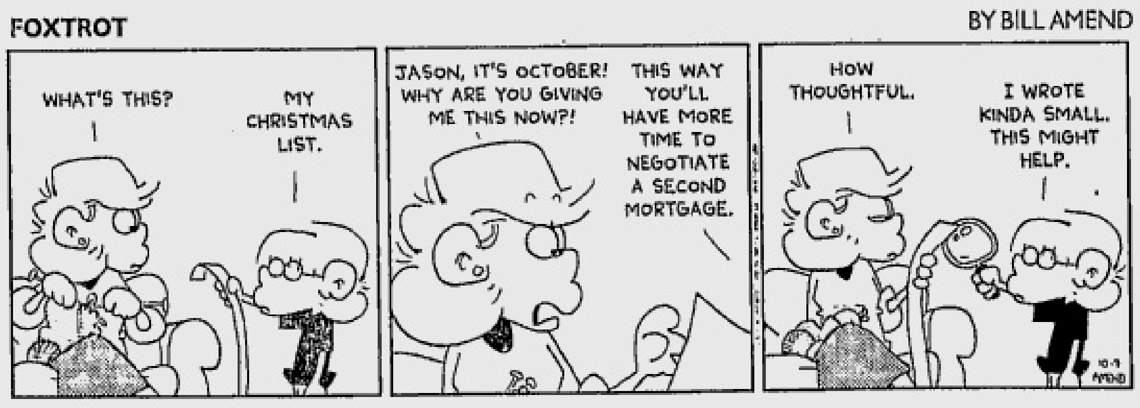


Government Warning: Cigarette smoking
is dangerous to your health

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003

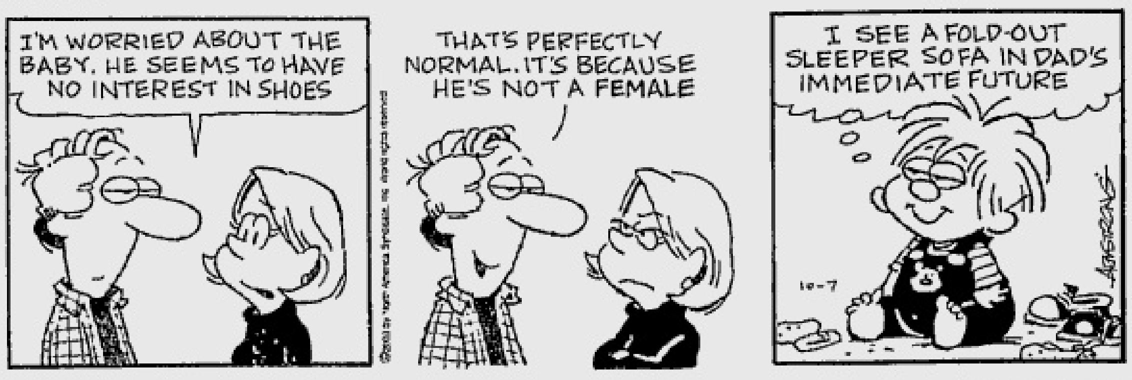
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S THIS?
MY CHRISTMAS LIST.
JASON, IT'S OCTOBER! WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS NOW?!
THIS WAY YOU'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO NEGOTIATE A SECOND MORTGAGE.
HOW THOUGHTFUL.
I WROTE KINDA SMALL. THIS MIGHT HELP.
10-9
AMEND

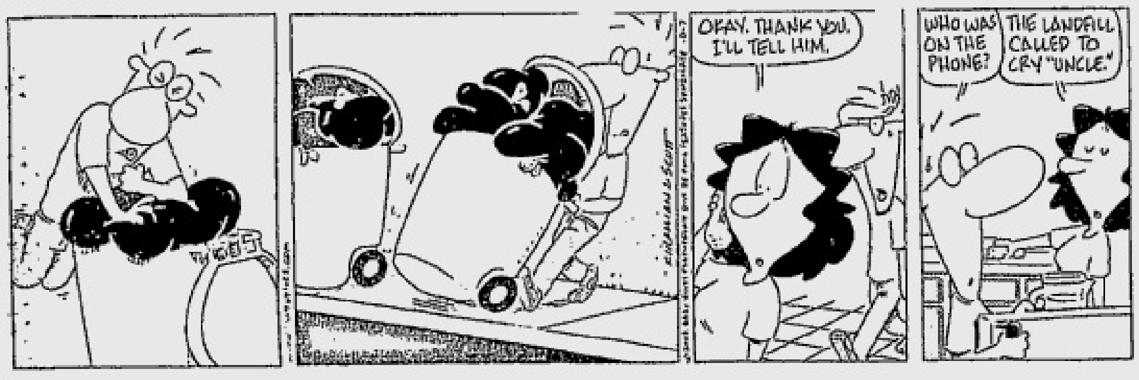
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE BABY. HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO INTEREST IN SHOES
THAT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL. IT'S BECAUSE HE'S NOT A FEMALE
I SEE A FOLD-OUT SLEEPER SOFA IN DAD'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE
10-7
ARMSTRONG

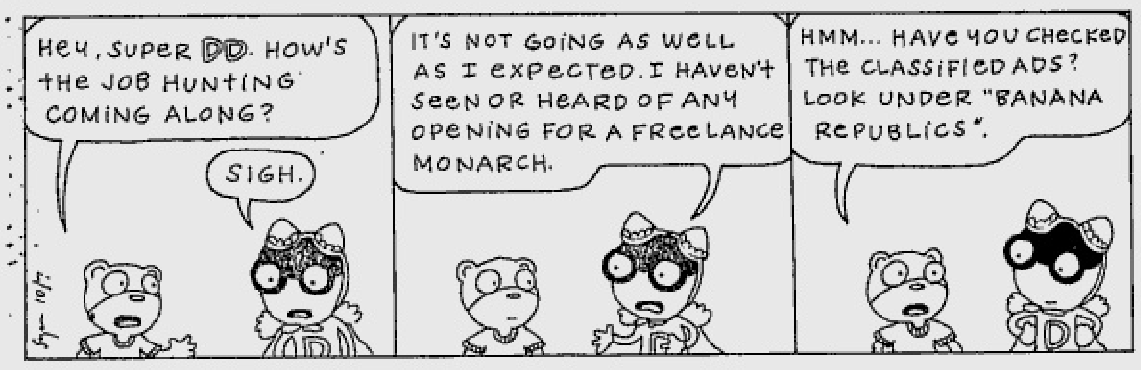
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY. THANK YOU. I'LL TELL HIM.
WHO WAS ON THE PHONE?
THE LANDFILL CALLED TO CRY "UNCLE."

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, SUPER DD. HOW'S THE JOB HUNTING COMING ALONG?
SIGH.
IT'S NOT GOING AS WELL AS I EXPECTED. I HAVEN'T SEEN OR HEARD OF ANY OPENING FOR A FREELANCE MONARCH.
HMM... HAVE YOU CHECKED THE CLASSIFIED ADS? LOOK UNDER "BANANA REPUBLICS".
10/7

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a committed idealist, which means you have your moments of rebellion. You want to make changes for the better in the world. You are strong-minded and know how to organize the efforts of those around you. You will always do what you believe is right. Work hard this year for rewards in 2005.
Birthdate of: Toni Braxton, singer; John Mellencamp, musician; Desmond Tutu, religious leader.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Even though you feel quite intensely about religious and political subjects today, nothing can be gained by mouthing off. There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A minor conflict with friends is possible today about spending a limited amount of money or sharing . Remember that friendship is more important than money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Others seem to know what's best for you; at least that's how they are acting today. But do they really? Probably not. You don't have to listen to anybody if you don't want to.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A customer or co-worker might be quite pushy at work today. You can either respond in kind or demonstrate the kind of behavior that is more appropriate and desirable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Romantic jealousies are possible today. Wait until tomorrow to see how you feel about situations that threaten you. Your views might change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Act on good ideas you have today to make improvements at home. Areas connected with laundry or bathrooms in particular are good places to start.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Cooperation with co-workers is a bit difficult today. In part, this is due to feelings of mistrust. Give these little thought, because this is your own inner doubt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might feel obsessed about buying something today. You feel you simply have to have it. If so, shop earlier in the day—well before dinnertime.

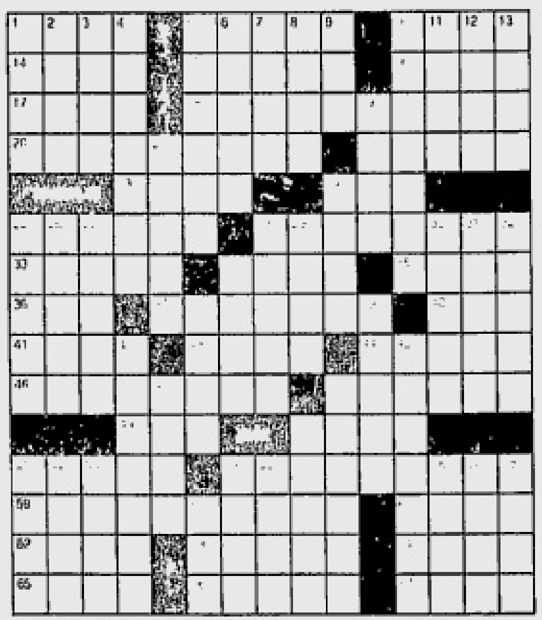
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your impulse to help a family member through suggestions or criticism will not be well-received. Someone will simply think that you are meddling in his or her life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't try too hard to convince others of your point of view today. You are a bit obsessed about something. Others will find this boring. (Oops.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone powerful might try to tell you what to do today. Even though you feel intimidated, you don't have to follow this advice. Only do what you feel comfortable doing.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid confrontation with authority figures (including the police) today. This is not a good time to present your ideas. Don't try to win arguments. Wait till another day, when your chances will be better.

DAILY CROSSWORD

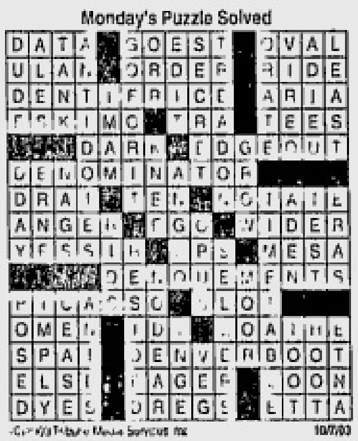

1
2
3
4
6
7
8
9
11
12
13
14
17
20
33
36
41
46
59
62
65

By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR
10/7/03

ACROSS
1 Flat-bottomed boat
5 Conductive element
10 Pork cut
14 "The Ring of the Nibelung" character
15 Type of daisy
16 Verdi work
17 Forage legume
18 Generally known
20 Incongruous figures of speech
22 The near ones
23 God of war
24 Cohort of Curly
25 Crazes
28 Back to the beginning?
33 On the qui vive
34 Heroine of "The Good Earth"
35 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
36 Actor Young
37 Snap
40 GPs' org.
41 Yeah, sure
43 Actress Gill
44 Shoe salesman, at times
46 Gentlemanly dispute?
48 River ends
49 Pose
50 __ fide
51 Conflicting sounds
54 Withdrawal
59 Unknown soldier?
61 Qatar's capital
62 Rote or Petty
63 Horse opera
64 Laverne's L
65 Alimony recipients
66 Color changers
67 Title

DOWN
1 Desert lily
2 Critical point
3 Singer Anita
4 Type of furnace
5 Mary Tyler and Roger
6 Montreal team
7 Adolescent
8 Rand and others
9 Brown of music
10 Marks of quality
11 Add to staff
12 Lofty poems
13 __ de foie gras
19 Type of collar
21 Speak from a soapbox
24 Pre-stereo sound
25 Florida team
26 Excuse
27 Israel's desert
28 Aviator
29 Indian royalty
30 Solar-lunar calendars differential
31 Site of ancient Greek games
32 Cherished ones
34 Safety grp
38 Chem figure
39 Mix
42 Paper hankies
45 Magic-lamp man
47 Property claim
48 Philanthropists
50 Having less coverage
51 Use a microwave?
52 Cameo stone
53 Wight or Skye
54 Light carriage
55 Head of France
56 One Chaplin
57 Caprice
58 Cager Archibald
60 Deity

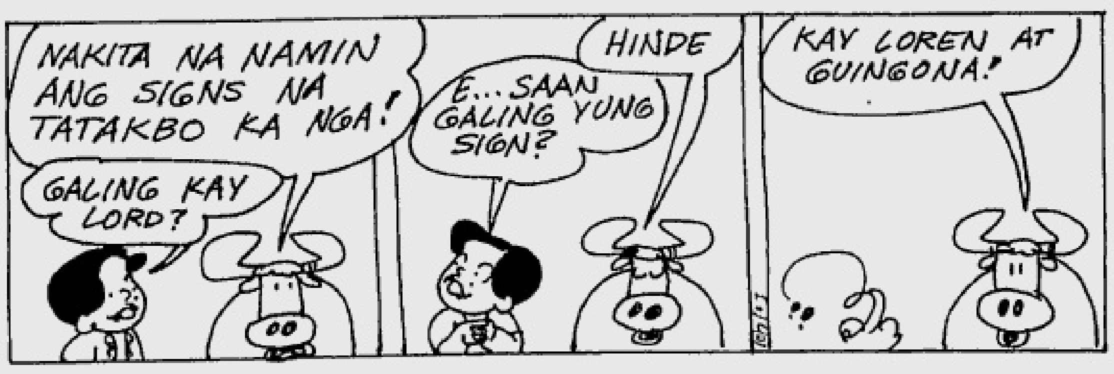
Monday's Puzzle Solved



©2003 Tribune Media Services Inc
All rights reserved
10/7/03

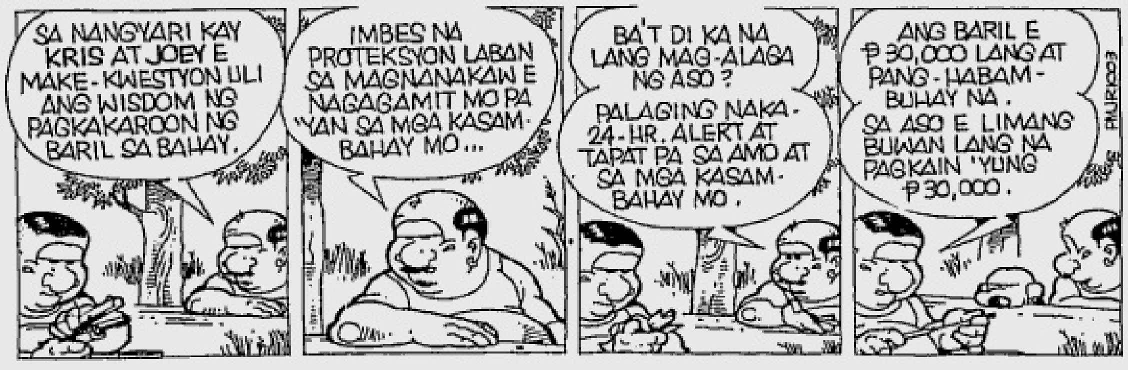
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKITA NA NAMIN ANG SIGNS NA TATAKBO KA NGA!
GALING KAY LORD?
E... SAAN GALING YUNG SIGN?
HINDE
KAY LOREN AT GUINGONA!
10/7/03

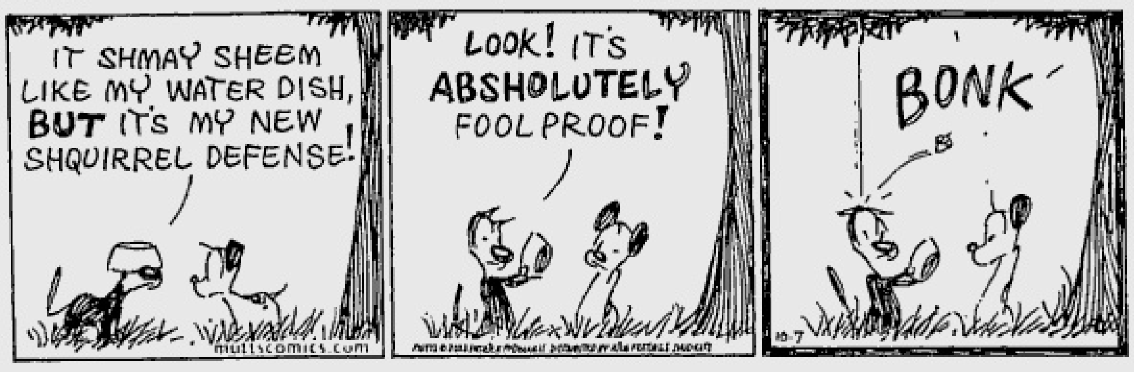
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA NANGYARI KAY KRIS AT JOEY E MAKE-KWESTYON ULI ANG WISDOM NG PAGKAKAROON NG BARIL SA BAHAY.
IMBES NA PROTEKSYON LABAN SA MAGNANAKAW E NAGAGAMIT MO PA 'YAN SA MGA KASAM-BAHAY MO...
BA'T DI KA NA LANG MAG-ALAGA NG ASO?
PALAGING NAKA-24-HR. ALERT AT TAPAT PA SA AMO AT SA MGA KASAM-BAHAY MO.
ANG BARIL E ₱30,000 LANG AT PANG-HABAM-BUHAY NA.
SA ASO E LIMANG BUWAN LANG NA PAGKAIN 'YUNG ₱30,000.
PMJR2003

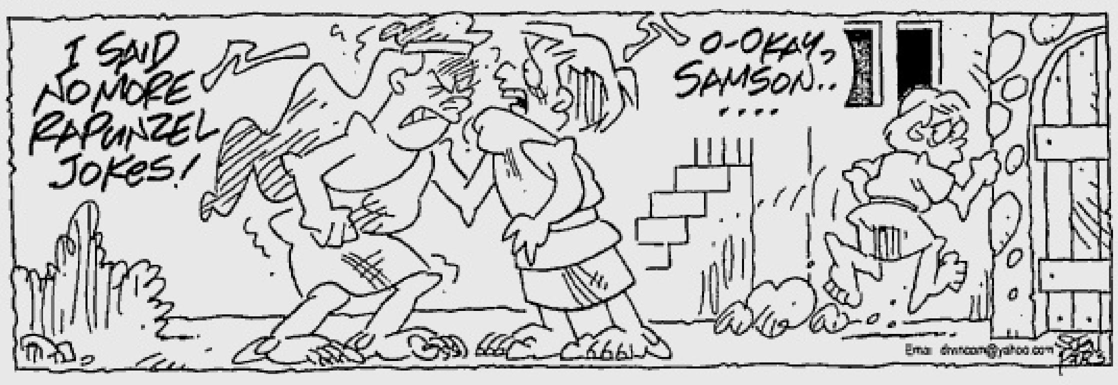
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT SHMAY SHEEM LIKE MY WATER DISH, BUT IT'S MY NEW SHQUIRREL DEFENSE!
muttscomics.com
LOOK! IT'S ABSHOLUTELY FOOL PROOF!
BONK
10-7

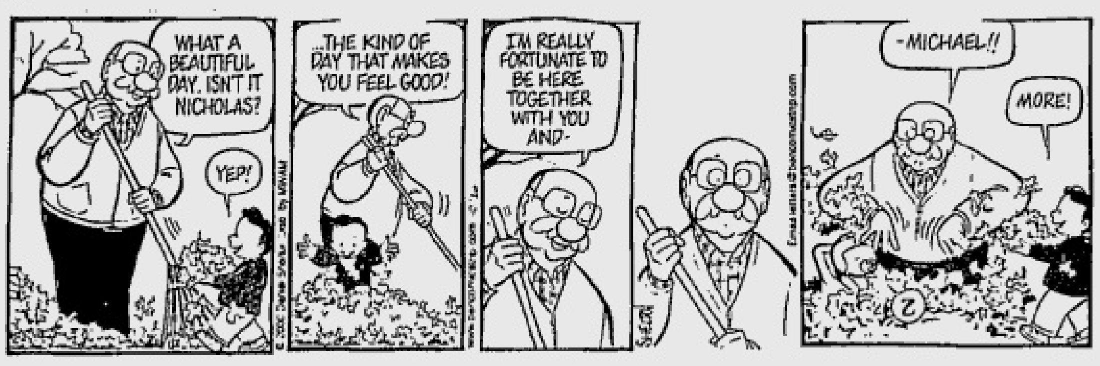
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I SAID NO MORE RAPUNZEL JOKES!
O-OKAY, SAMSON...
Email: divncom@yahoo.com

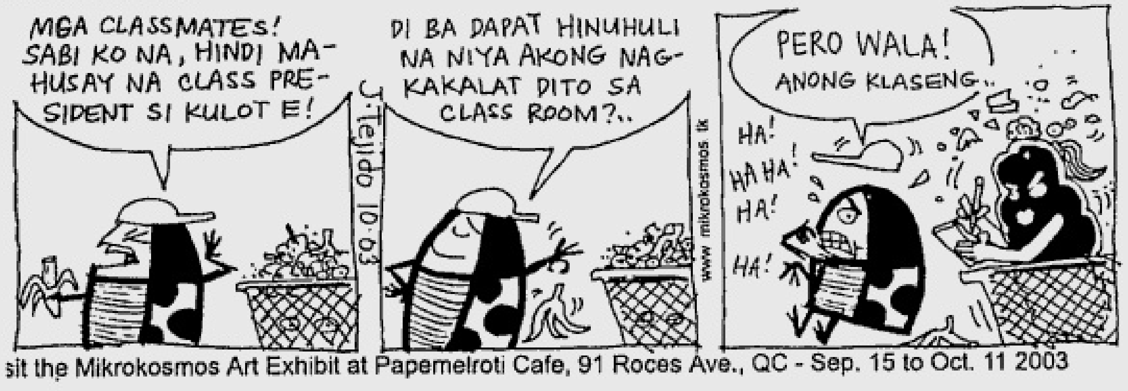
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY. ISN'T IT NICHOLAS?
YEP!
...THE KIND OF DAY THAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD!
I'M REALLY FORTUNATE TO BE HERE TOGETHER WITH YOU AND-
-MICHAEL!!
MORE!

MIKROKOSMOS

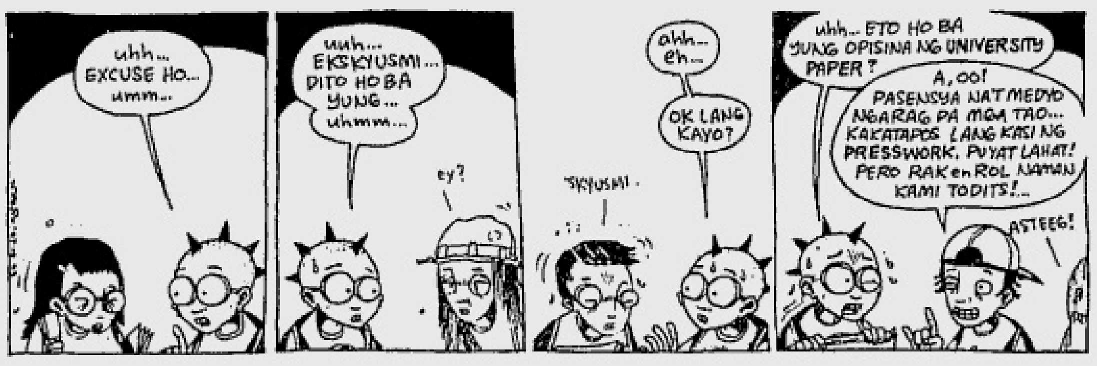
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MGA CLASSMATES! SABI KO NA, HINDI MAHUSAY NA CLASS PRESIDENT SI KULOT E!
J.Tejido 10.03
DI BA DAPAT HINUHULI NA NIYA AKONG NAGKAKALAT DITO SA CLASS ROOM?..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
PERO WALA! ANONG KLASENG..
HA! HA HA! HA! HA!

sit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

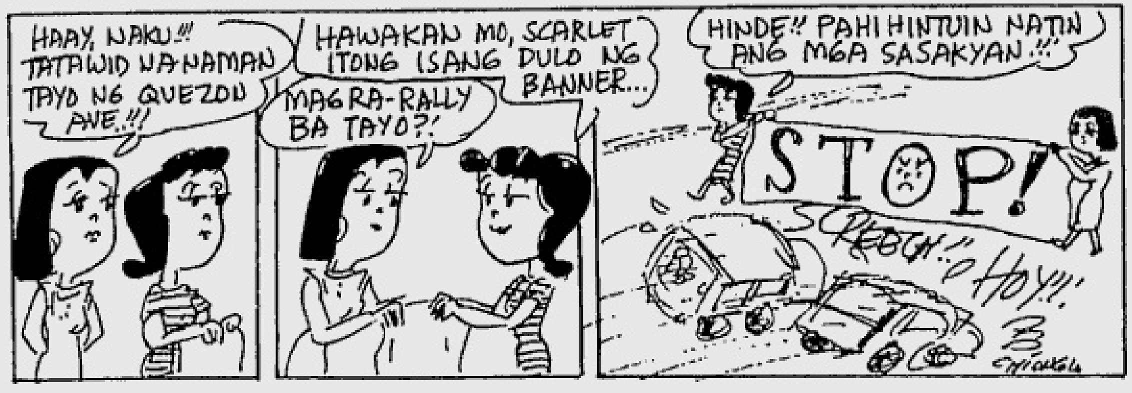
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh... EXCUSE HO... umm..
uuh... EKSKYUSMI... DITO HO BA YUNG... uhmm...
ey?
'SKYUSMI .
ahh... eh...
OK LANG KAYO?
uhh... ETO HO BA YUNG OPISINA NG UNIVERSITY PAPER?
A, OO! PASENSYA NAT MEDYO NGARAG PA MGA TAO... KAKATAPOS LANG KASI NG PRESSWORK. PUYAT LAHAT! PERO RAKenROL NAMAN KAMI TODITS!..
ASTEEG!

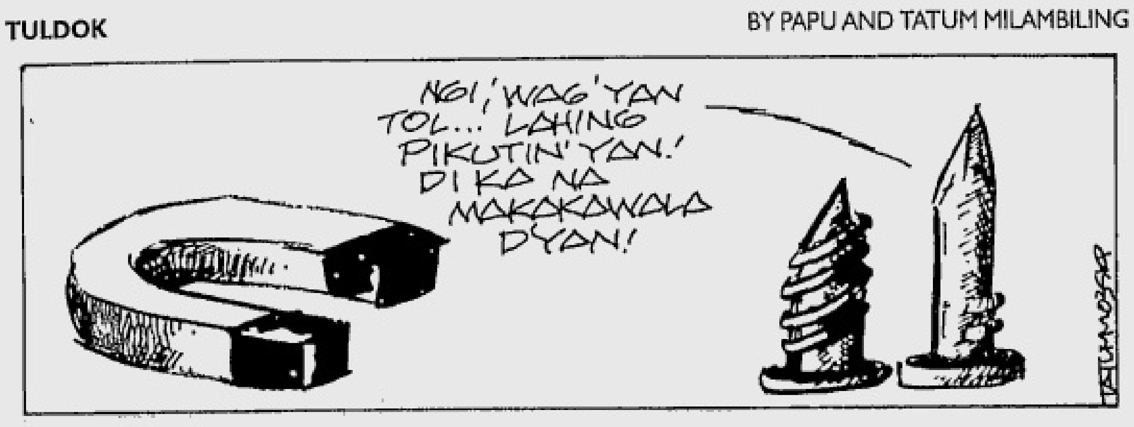
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAAY, NAKU!!! TATAWID NA NAMAN TAYO NG QUEZON AVE.!!!
HAWAKAN MO, SCARLET ITONG ISANG DULO NG BANNER...
MAGRA-RALLY BA TAYO?!
HINDE!! PAHIHINTUIN NATIN ANG MGA SASAKYAN!!!
STOP!
SCREECH!!
HOY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI, 'WAG 'YAN TOL... LAHING PIKUTIN 'YAN! DI KA NA MAKAKAWALA DYAN!
TATUMOBAR

CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1 THE MEDALLION
2 INNER SENSES
3 KISKISAN
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

CITY CEBU
2310876

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 FIRST TIME
6 NEW BLOOD
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 THE MEDALLION

CITY BACOOR
4173166

1 KISKISAN
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 KATAS
8 FREDDY VS. JASON

CITY PAMPANGA
7628515

1 THE MEDALLION
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 KISKISAN
5 THE RUNDOWN
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294675

1 KISKISAN
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

BICUTAN
7763055

1 the rundown
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

STA. MESA
7149522 · 7161416

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 BASIC
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 KISKISAN
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 · THE MEDALLION
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 SUCKERS
9 FREDDY VS. JASON
10 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SOUTHMALL
8665003

1 HOW TO DEAL
2 INNER SENSES
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 KATAS
6 THE MEDALLION
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 FREDDY VS. JASON
10 KISKISAN

CITY FAIRVIEW
9359749

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 TAKE MY BODY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 THE MEDALLION
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 HOW TO DEAL
10 KATAS
11 FIRST TIME
12 KISKISAN

CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 FIRST TIME
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 THE RUNDOWN

CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108877-80

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FIRST TIME
3 KISKISAN
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

MEGAMALL
6331901 · 6329401

1 BASIC
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6368800
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 HOW TO DEAL
5 THE MEDALLION
6 THE RUNDOWN
7 DEADLINE BEIRUT
8 INNER SENSES
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 TAKE MY BODY
12 KISKISAN

CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 KISKISAN
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

CITY ILOILO
3208422

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 BASIC
5 THE MEDALLION
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 RESERVED
8 FIRST TIME

CITY MANILA
5239240

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MEDALLION
4 HOW TO DEAL
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 KISKISAN
8 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
11 INNER SENSES
12 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM
C I N E M A

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1
HOW TO DEAL
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
THE RUNDOWN
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National
Consumer's Quality Award 2003

NOW SHOWING
DIAL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
687-0503

THX /All Digital

1 UNDERWORLD 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00 THX
2 UNDERWORLD 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
3 FREDDY VS. JASON 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
5 HOW TO DEAL 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 SUCKERS 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40
8 RUNDOWN
9 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10 INNER SENSES 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2 INNER SENSES - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
3 FREDDY VS. JASON - 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
4 RUNDOWN
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
7 HOW TO DEAL - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 TAKE MY BODY
7 THE MEDALLION
8 RUNDOWN

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOW TO DEAL
7 RUNDOWN
8 KATAS

Star Mills (045)875-1927 (045)961-5370		Imus (046)471-0188 / 875-5958
HOW TO DEAL	1	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KISKISAN	3	RUNDOWN
RUNDOWN	4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
THE MEDALLION	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	6	

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
HOLLY WOOD HOMICIDE	1	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2	BASIC
2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	3	THE MEDALLION
BASIC	4	1ST TIME
RUNDOWN	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KALABIT	6	RUNDOWN

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Malabon 288-0985/2575
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	1	KISKISAN
HOW TO DEAL	2	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
RUNDOWN	4	RUNDOWN
FREDDY VS. JASON	5	

SOON TO OPEN
LIPA, BATANGAS
CAINTA JUNCTION
DASMARINAS, CAVITE

Free Coffee at the Movies

Enjoy the Last Full Show at Robinsons Galleria
NESCAFE is on the House,
Because we save the Best for last!

NESCAFE
9PM Onwards
Every Friday • Saturday • Sunday

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
HOW TO DEAL
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
P13

CINEMA 2
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
11:50, 2:20, 4:50
GP
RUNDOWN
7:30, 9:50
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

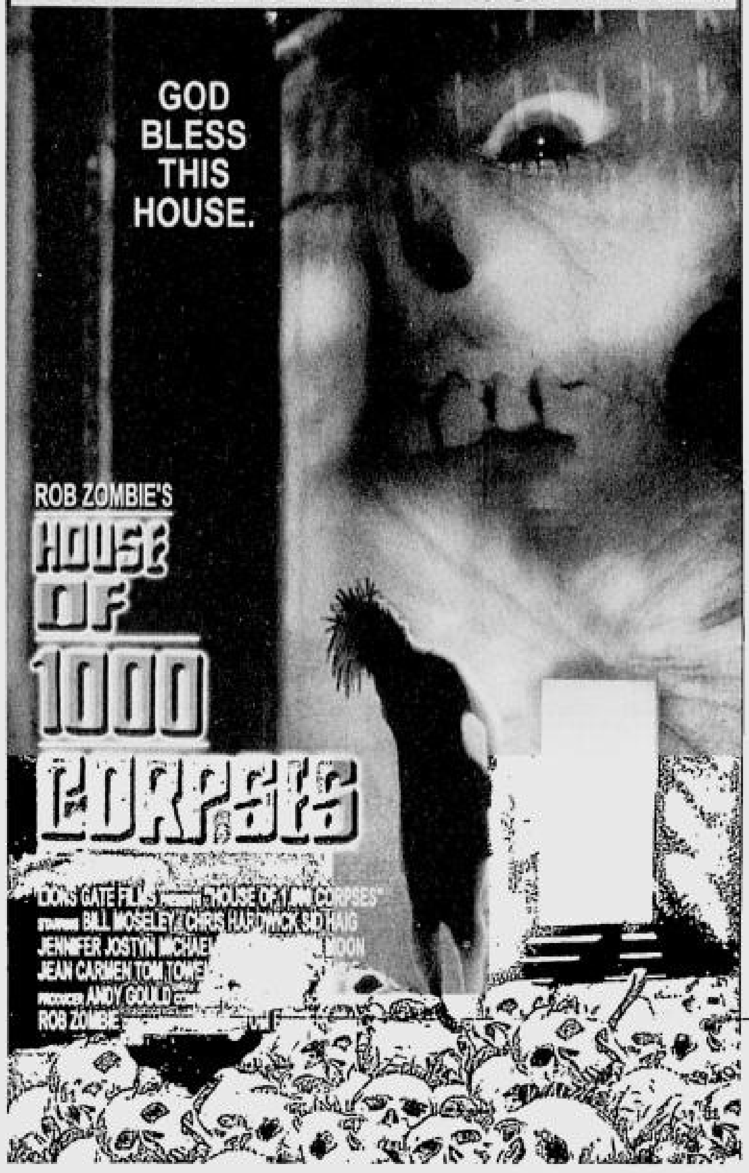
MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 10	'LOADED' NYOY VOLANTE	9:00PM
OCT 11	JON SANTOS LIVE & IN PERSON (S)	7:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

OPENS TOMORROW MAGIC 89.9

YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!



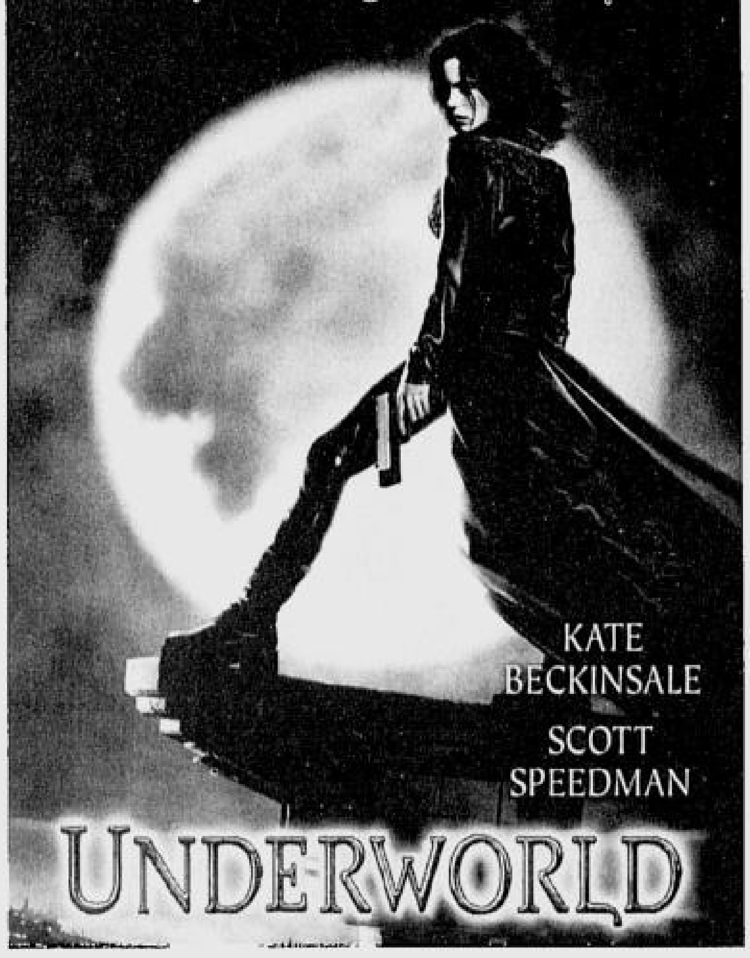
NOW SHOWING MAGIC 89.9

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA

Watch **"UNDERWORLD"** in your favorite theaters & be among the first to see the worldwide trailer launch of **"LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING"**.

MTRCB RATING ▶ **R-13** | Strictly for 13 years of age and up.

VAMPIRES vs. WEREWOLVES...
only the strongest will survive.



SEE IT FIRST!

CINEMA

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Oct. 7, 2003

MTRCB RATING: PG13

Tickets available at:
SM MEGAMALL • NORTH EDSA
MANILA • STA MESA • FAIRVIEW
TUTUBAN SILVERSCREEN
SOUTHMALL • BACOOR • SUCAT
PAMPANGA • CEBU • ILOILO • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO

Regular showing on October 22, 2003

For screening schedule, dial 833 9990

THE ROCK
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
ROSARIO DAWSON
THE RUNDOWN
COMING SOON

Jon plays the most colorful character of all—himself

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

IN HIS 16 years in the biz, Jon Santos has done at least 50 impersonations—on TV, such as "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata" then, and "Ispup" on Channel 5 now, and in countless live performances.

SANTOS. Identity crisis

"Twelve characters are a staple in my shows," shares this year's Aliw Award winner for best male solo performer in music lounges, bars and clubs, over lunch in a pizza restaurant in Quezon City. "I'm closest to my Vilma Santos character because she's the first one I impersonated, ever. And it was born out of accident.

"I was then with 'Lunch Date' (a defunct noontime show on Channel 7). We had this contest to promote Vilma's movie, where I played her and the contestant played her male co-star."

That impersonation proved to be a hit and Jon suddenly found himself in the limelight mimicking other colorful characters, mostly in show business and politics. Until then, he was content writing plays and scripts for other artists. He was also a part of the group of good friends Enrico Santos and Deo Edrinal (who are now executives at ABS-CBN) that gave workshops to aspiring TV writers.

Soon, however, Jon will assume onstage just one personality: his own. "Because at 50, I won't wear high heels anymore," explains the 37-year-old comic, chuckling.

Three years ago, in fact, Jon started performing live as himself, without imitating any famous celebrity. "I was invited to an event in Ateneo," he recalls. "I thought I would just do my usual Gloria (President Macapagal-

JON/ A25

Weekends at Shang's Streetscape

THIS October at Streetscape, the newest dining and gimmick spot at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, Friday and Saturday nights feature live entertainment.

Pop and retro bands Niche, Passage, N-Control and Fursurkle bands play on Oct. 10, 17 and 24. Silk, Intense and Recall bands perform on Oct. 11 and 18.

Streetscape also presents a special retro Halloween party on Oct. 25 with the Sould Out and Retrospect bands.

For inquiries, call 633-7851.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KATAS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KISKISAN
B	KATAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KISKISAN
CINEMA-2	KATAS
CINEMA-3	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-6	SUCKERS
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	DEADLINE BEIRUT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	FREDDY VS. JASON
CINEMA-14	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	SWAT
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-4	BASIC
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
Ali 2	KISKISAN
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 5	HOW TO DEAL
Ali 6	FREDDY VS. JASON
Ali 7	THE MEDALLION
ARANETA COLISEUM	
OCT 8	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 10	OGIE ALCASID CONCERT
OCT 11	UAAP FINALS: ATENEO VS. FEU
OCT 12	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. PUREFOODS
OCT 13	NCA 7-STAG DERBY

Opens Dec. 23 2003 **DISNEY ON ICE** Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!

Call TicketNet at 911-5555

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES R13 1:40, 3.30, 5:20 7:10, 9:00	THE RUNDOWN PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30 7:45, 10:00
HOW TO DEAL PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO R18 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 1:05

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

"FEMALE FURY" EXPLODES TOMORROW!

PURE EVIL CHOOSES NO GENDER, BUT WHEN A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN BECOMES ONE... SEX IS THE MAIN WEAPON FOR BIZARRE KILLINGS!!

MTRCB RATING R-18
Angrier! Deadlier! Sexier!
AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
LIONS GATE FILMS PRESENTS "AMERICAN PSYCHO II" MILA KUNIS GERAINT WYN DAVIES

"INCARCERATION" STARTS TOMORROW!

THE MOST SHOCKING AND PROVOCATIVE DEPICTION OF AN ABUSIVE CATHOLIC CONVENT IN IRELAND WHERE WOMEN WERE RAPED, BEATEN, STARVED AND FORCED TO UNPAID LABOR AS PENANCE FOR THEIR SINS!

BASED ON TRUE STORY

WINNER ! DISCOVERY AWARD-TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL and EUROPEAN UNION AWARD!

MTRCB RATING R-13
WINNER! BEST PICTURE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
MARS
MIRAMAX FILMS

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 UNDERWORLD	1 THE RUNDOWN	ArtFilm 1 HOW TO DEAL 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE RUNDOWN 1:55 4:15 6:35 8:55 11:15	THX 1 UNDERWORLD
2 HOW TO DEAL	2 HOW TO DEAL	2 UNDERWORLD 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 UNDERWORLD 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40 12:00	2 HOW TO DEAL
3 THE RUNDOWN	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 GIGLI 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	LANI MISALUCHA Oct 10 & 11, 8PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO DEAL 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45	3 THE RUNDOWN
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 INNER SENSES		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BASIC 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
	5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO [illegible]	5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
	6 UNDERWORLD			
	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD
2 (SDDS) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 (DTS) HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4 HOW TO DEAL
5 UNDERWORLD
6 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9 MEDALLION
10 SWAT

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274
1 KATAS
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KISKISAN

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 KATAS
4 (DOLBY) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
5 KISKISAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 KATAS
2 KISKISAN
3 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 KALABIT
2 MR. BONES

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC.
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PEEK)
3 KULANG SA LAMBING
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) UNDERWORLD
4 RESERVE
5 KISKISAN
6 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
7 (DTS) KATAS
8 (SDDS) HOW TO DEAL
9 (DOLBY) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 KISKISAN
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KATAS
4 (SDDS) UNDERWORLD
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 (DOLBY) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
7 (DTS) HOW TO DEAL
8 TAKE MY BODY
9 MEDALLION

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 KATAS
2 (SDDS) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 (DOLBY) HOW TO DEAL
5 KISKISAN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 KISKISAN
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 KATAS
5 (SDDS) UNDERWORLD

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson KISKISAN
Lords KISKISAN
Jennet RESERVE

MARIN PLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KISKISAN
4 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KISKISAN
3 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 KATAS

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 · 879.2029
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 KISKISAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT **Araneta**

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821, 8242 8400
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 KISKISAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 (DTS) HOW TO DEAL
6 FREDDY VS JASON
7 THE MEDALLION

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821, 8242 8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 HOW TO DEAL
2 FREDDY VS JASON
3 (DTS) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
2 (DTS) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 FREDDY VS JASON
4 HOW TO DEAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREDDY VS JASON
3 (DTS) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
4 HOW TO DEAL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DOLBY) SWAT
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FIRST TIME
3 SWAT
4 DADDY DAY CARE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DTS) ASBOOBS
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
2 KATAS
3 (DTS) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 KISKISAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS) FREDDY VS JASON
4 KALABIT
5 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 BETTER THAN SEX
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 HOW TO DEA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BASIC
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 SWAT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FIRST TIME
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 FREDDY VS JASON
2 BASIC
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 FREDDY VS JASON
2 RUNDOWN (SNEEK PREVIEW)
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREDDY VS JASON
3 (DOLBY) BASIC
4 RESERVE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

UNDERWORLD

NOW SHOWING

Jolina, Sin, Ninoy replace Patricia, Joyce

By Marinel R. Cruz

AFTER going "bold" with sexy stars Patricia Javier and Joyce Jimenez, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. turns "wholesome" with Jolina Magdangal, and even former Manila archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the late Ninoy Aquino.

The shift from sexy to virtuous was a result of a congressman's "media assault" on the telecommunications giant after the company featured Patricia and Joyce in a series of phone cards and in "hotline" services earlier this year.

In a press statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment, PLDT vice president Butch Jimenez said the company has stopped the production and distribution of the Patricia and Joyce phone cards "long before Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes Jr. waged a media assault on the company."

PLDT has just released its newest phone cards, which feature Jolina and Sin.

Soon, PLDT will come up with a phone card bearing the picture of slain Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., said the statement.

The sale of the phone cards will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Caritas Foundation and the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation, said PLDT.

"The cards are all designed to promote, uplift and support Filipino values," Jimenez said in the statement.

Last month, Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, chair of the House of Representatives committee on basic education and culture, questioned PLDT for selling phone cards featuring sexy stars in the nude or in provocative outfits.

Reyes also accused the PLDT of offering a phone sex service where Patricia talked about her sexual experiences.

Reyes had said one of the PLDT cards showed Patricia's breasts, nipple and navel. The Joyce cards showed her with only a pillow covering her private parts, while another card featured the Sex Bomb dancers in provocative outfits, he said.

MAGDANGAL

JIMENEZ

JAVIER

The phone service, called Lovenotes, originally offered advice on relationships but later changed its format. Buyers of the P100 phone cards can listen to any starlet of their choice talk about sex through the PLDT Lovenotes hotline.

Reyes said the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) had looked into the complaints about phone sex and an initial investigation found that the Sex Bomb Dancers phone cards had not been approved by NTC. Still, PLDT proceeded to sell the cards, he added.

PLDT said it terminated its phone service featuring Joyce last May 20 and Patricia last Aug. 22. The statement did not mention the Sex Bomb Dancers phone cards.

"PLDT management continues to see no valid reason for Congressman Reyes' media grandstanding. . . (and) his call for an investigation since the issue being raised no longer exists," said Jimenez.

Twin treats

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LATE last month, popular jazz-pop singer and pianist **David Benoit** performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the CCP to raise funds to buy badly-needed new instruments for the PPO.

As CCP trustee and PPO "angel" **Zenaida Tantoco** observed, Benoit's "Take a Look Inside" concert was "truly remarkable because it is a celebration of his 25 multi-awarded years in the field, and will also serve as the Asian debut of his first Piano Concerto, 'The Centaur and the Sphinx.'

"That he agreed to hold this breakthrough performance here together with our very own Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra speaks volumes of his high regard for Manila, and his recognition of our musical talents."

During the concert, Benoit himself explained his special affinity for this country: When he first started performing here many years ago, he was pretty much an unknown entertainer in the United States, where he would play mostly in small bars and obscure watering holes.

Imagine the surge of pride he felt, then, when he performed on the main stage of the CCP! "I first became a star in your country," he beamed—which is why he keeps coming back here whenever he's invited to, and treats local music fans to his new works, and of course to the hits they've learned to cherish through the years.

Benoit also shared that he and his wife of 18 years had their first child only three years ago, a special and long-awaited gift that he celebrated with the release of his musical tribute to Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" comic strip, "Here's to you, Charlie Brown: 50 Great Years."

At his latest CCP concert, Benoit's piano concerto, "The Centaur and the Sphinx," sounded like the musical score for an animated fable. The fact that there were no visuals supplied that night made the score's development difficult to follow, despite the synopsis provided in the program.

The fable was like an exotic, magical version of "Romeo and Juliet," with a centaur and a sphinx falling in love with each other, despite strictures against such a union between different species.

Unlike "Romeo and Juliet," Benoit's story didn't end tragically. The centaur and a sphinx were persuaded that they were still too young to know what true love was, so they sweetly settled for a "special friendship." Like we said, a musical fable in dire need of animation.

Benoit's other numbers got better response from the audience, and not just because they were more familiar. We were particularly taken by the little-known "Hymn for Aquino" which, happily without bombast, captured the bittersweet tenor of the martyr's heroic sacrifice.

Some numbers featured singer **Luke Mejares**, who appeared to be shy that night, generally whispering his lyrics rather than giving them the clarity and conviction they required.

On the whole, however, "Take a Look Inside" pleased Benoit's Filipino fans, while raising a substantial amount to upgrade the PPO's musical instruments. Thanks, David Benoit, for the twin treats!

New animé series

ABS-CBN has started telecasting the new animé sensation, "Yu-Gi-Oh!" (M-F) in Tagalog translation. In the series, Yugi and his best friends share a love for the exciting game "Duel Monsters," a card-battling game in which players pit different mystical creatures against one another.

But there's more to this card game than meets the eye. It turns out that it harks back to antiquity, when a similar game involved magical ceremonies which were used to foresee the future.

During that time, however, the monsters were real. And it wasn't long before the game got out of hand and threatened to destroy the entire world. Fortunately, a pharaoh was able to avert the cataclysm with the help of seven powerful magical totems.

Yugi gets involved in a Duel Monsters tournament when his grandfather is kidnapped and the boy has to compete and win to save him.

Aries Caces

PIANIST **Aries Caces** performs at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Francisco Santiago Hall in Makati City. He will be playing pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Liszt.

Caces has performed in Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the USA. Call the MCO Foundation at 840-7000, locals 2630 and 2258.

Aside from being a chamber musician, Caces is also a conductor. He studied in Graz, Austria, then pursued higher studies which include a master's degree in piano performance, studies in piano chamber music, and a "Diplom" in conducting.

Jon plays the most colorful . . .

From page A24

Arroyo) character, but I felt that the young audience won't be able to relate to my material, so I decided to just be myself and share my opinions with them."

He will do the same on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Music Museum in the return engagement of "Jon Santos Live and In Person(s)," which was originally staged at Onstage in Greenbelt 1.

Ten in one

"*Nakakapanibago*" is how he describes his new act. "I'm actually having an identity crisis, but only as far as the costumes are concerned. I don't know if I'll wear a cap or if I'll just wear my own clothes. One thing's for sure, it's more daring because, yes (I won't be hiding under the guise of a character and will just be myself).

"But it'll just be during the last 25 percent of the show," Jon hastens to add, lest he breaks the hearts of viewers who loved him as Vilma Santos, Armida Siguion-Reyna, Charo Santos-Concio and Sen. Loi Ejercito.

He makes it clear that for the first three-fourths of the show, he'll still do his on-target impersonations. In one segment, for instance, he'll do 10 personalities who are believed to be running for president next year. But Jon is mum on the identities of the "presidentiables."

"There might be changes in the lineup," he explains, citing an incident when he was doing "Rock da Vote" a few election seasons ago and a candidate suddenly quit the race. "So I had to do immediate changes to my script."

The same happened when he had a show on 9/11. He had to adjust his jokes to the pervading mood of the people.

Jon says he doesn't want the last-minute revisions to douse the expectations of the audience. "The audience is my boss," he maintains, "though sometimes I tend to spoil them."

TT clone

In his Music Museum show, he will have as guests the Apo Hiking Society, Mitch Valdes and Cambio, the band led by Raymund Marasigan and Buddy Zabala of the former Eraserheads. He'll do a number each with his guests, but he's again wary of divulging details. All he can say is that he looks forward to performing with the Apo's Jim Paredes, Buboy Garovillo and Danny Javier ("they helped me love my country more") and Mitch ("she helped me in penetrating the lounge scene").

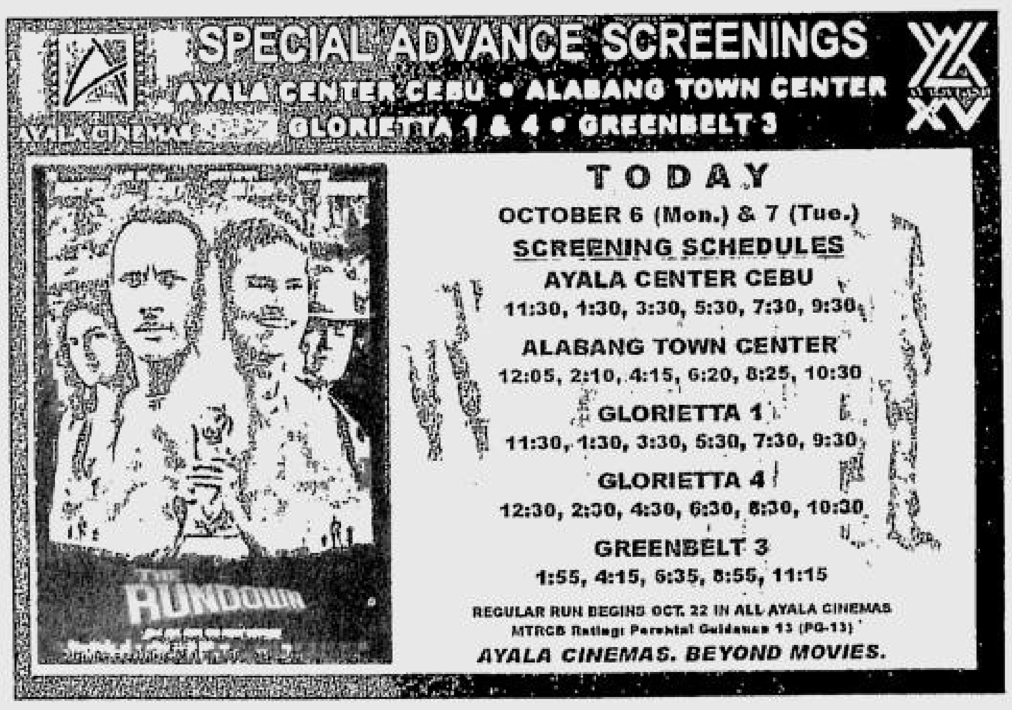
Another person he's very grateful to is Tessie Tomas. She's not in his Music Museum show, but he insists that she's always mentioned in his interviews.

"I'm too much of a Tessie Tomas clone," he quips. "Before a show, I also write notes on index cards as if I were preparing for an exam."

An excited Jon announces that Tessie will have a special show in Comfort Room, a comedy bar in Makati that he co-owns with colleague Candy Pangilinan and other partners.

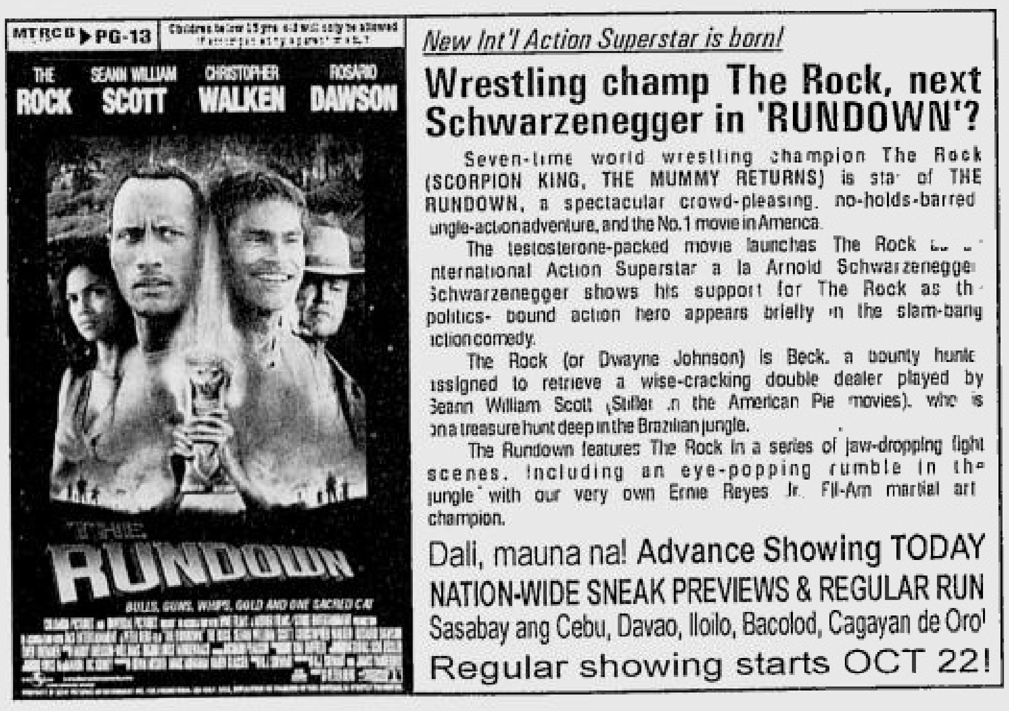
Right on cue, his phone rings, and it's the doyenne of live comedy, Teysi herself. "I have a meeting with her at four," he says with a smile.

RESERVE-A-SEAT
Call 636-6800
for SM Megamall Cinemas
SM CINEMA



SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
AYALA CENTER CEBU • ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 • GREENBELT 3
AYALA CINEMAS

TODAY
OCTOBER 6 (Mon.) & 7 (Tue.)
SCREENING SCHEDULES
AYALA CENTER CEBU
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30
GLORIETTA 1
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
GLORIETTA 4
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
GREENBELT 3
1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15
REGULAR RUN BEGINS OCT. 22 IN ALL AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
AYALA CINEMAS. BEYOND MOVIES.



New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

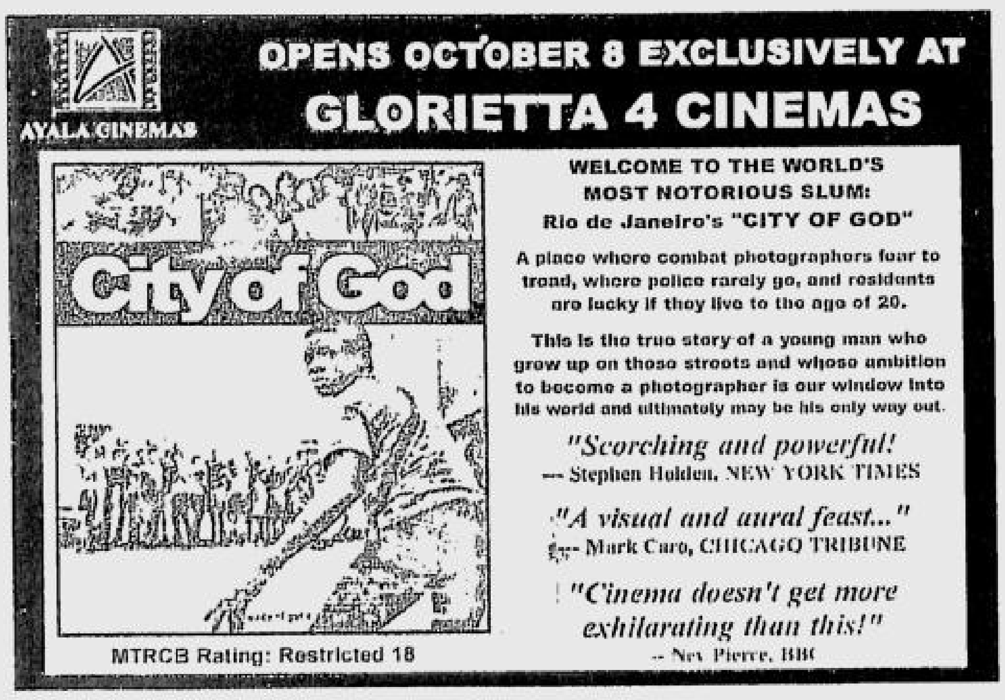
Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred jungle-action adventure, and the No. 1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an International Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics-bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial art champion.

Dali, mauna na! Advance Showing TODAY
NATION-WIDE SNEAK PREVIEWS & REGULAR RUN
Sasabay ang Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro!
Regular showing starts OCT 22!



AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS OCTOBER 8 EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS SLUM:
Rio de Janeiro's "CITY OF GOD"

A place where combat photographers fear to tread, where police rarely go, and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20.

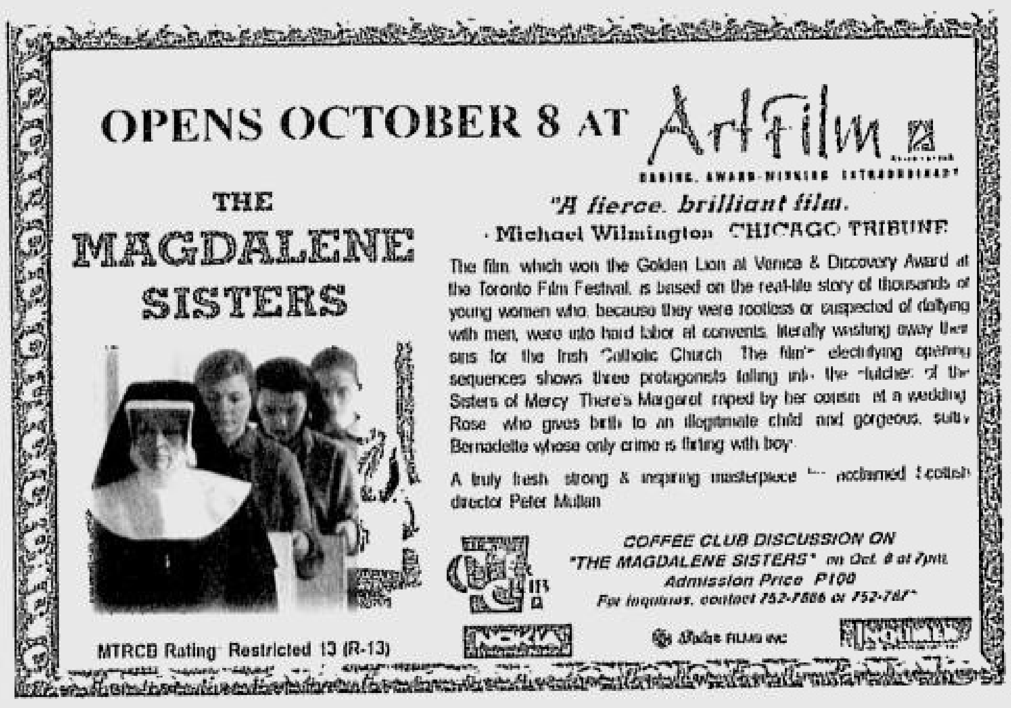
This is the true story of a young man who grew up on those streets and whose ambition to become a photographer is our window into his world and ultimately may be his only way out.

"Scorching and powerful!
— Stephen Holden, NEW YORK TIMES

"A visual and aural feast..."
— Mark Caro, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Cinema doesn't get more exhilarating than this!"
-- Nev Pierce, BBC

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18


OPENS OCTOBER 8 AT ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS

"A fierce, brilliant film.
- Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The film, which won the Golden Lion at Venice & Discovery Award at the Toronto Film Festival, is based on the real-life story of thousands of young women who, because they were rootless or suspected of dallying with men, were into hard labor at convents, literally washing away their sins for the Irish Catholic Church. The film's electrifying opening sequences shows three protagonists falling into the clutches of the Sisters of Mercy. There's Margaret, raped by her cousin at a wedding, Rose, who gives birth to an illegitimate child, and gorgeous, sultry Bernadette whose only crime is flirting with boys.

A truly fresh, strong & inspiring masterpiece — acclaimed Scottish director Peter Mullan

COFFEE CLUB DISCUSSION ON "THE MAGDALENE SISTERS" on Oct. 8 at 7pm.
Admission Price P100
For inquiries, contact 752-7886 or 752-787

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Family Care
Text FCARE & Send to 2994
Recipes from Sylvia's Kitchen
Text SYLVIA & Send to 2994
First Aid Tips
Text FA & Send to 2994
Fun & Games
Text FG & Send to 2994
Family Entertainment
Text FENT & Send to 2994

Expert ang buong pamilya sa Touch Mobile

Home

Info Text Service

Useful expert tips for the whole family available through Touch Mobile Home Info Text Service.

For Touch Mobile users with TK SIM: **Go to the TOUCH MOBILE MENU and click on TM HOME INFO.**

[illegible] **Text the keyword and send to 2994.**

- For the Category: Text **TOUCHMOBILE** or **HOMEINFO** to 2994
  Get a list of all categories and other information you can access.
- For Family Care: Text **FCARE** to 2994
  Information for the home like: child care tips, Health tips and more.
- For Family Entertainment: Text **FENT** to 2994
  Movie & TV show schedules, as well as where to go for a great family vacation.
- For Recipes by Sylvia Reynoso-Gala: Text **SYLVIA** to 2994
  Everyday and special occassion recipes from Sylvia Reynoso-Gala.
- For Daily Guides: Text **DG** to 2994
  Words of wisdom and words of advice, get everything from Horoscopes to Dream Interpretation and even the Chinese Almanac.
- For First Aid: Text **FA** to 2994
  Useful and easy to understand tips on what to do in case of emergencies.
- For News & Info: Text **NEWSINFO** to 2994
  News, Showbiz, traffic updates and more.
- For Job Openings: Text **EMPLOY** to 2994
  Local and international job listings by industry.
- For Directory: Text **LOCATE** to 2994
  Get numbers of local fire stations, police stations, hospitals as well as restaurants.
- For Fun & Games: Text **FG** to 2994
  Personalize your phone with ringtones, icons and even have your own handypet.
- For Messaging: Text **MAIL** to 2994
  Set up your instant messenger service and mobile mail.

Only P2.50 per successful info text download

touch mobile

Because family matters most.

For more information, call 808 from Touch Mobile handsets (24-hour Hotline); toll-free 730-1500 from any local landline.

Powered by: GLOBE TELECOM

PETRON
Ultron
TS³
The Ultimate Release from Engine Stress. From Petron.
AVAILABLE IN TOURING, EXTRA, RALLYE, RACE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

BUSINESS

DELL™
Latitude D500
Essential productivity and dependable quality at a value price!
Call now for more info!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

GMA's election bid seen to boost markets

By Clarissa S. Batino, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Donna Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration last Saturday that she would run in the May 2004 elections should be received positively by financial markets that have been clamoring for continuity in economic reforms, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

"Before the announcement, the situation was uncertain for foreign investors. Her declaration removed one element of uncertainty for the market," the finance chief said.

The business community shared the same sentiment.

Filipino business leaders attending the first Asean Business and Investment Summit being held in Bali, Indonesia, said the President calmed down the political "uncertainty" by finally making known her decision.

"It is welcome news since many people are hoping that she would change her mind so she can continue her programs. She did change her mind and that's her prerogative," said Miguel Varela, former president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry when interviewed at the sidelines of the summit.

Sergio Ortiz Luis, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the business community appreciated "continuity" in the government's policies, and the President's declaration would calm down fears about abrupt changes in policies.

"They (businessmen) are now more assured in the sense they now have their options," he said.

An official of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry also welcomed the President's declaration.

"I think this is a good opportunity for her to prove she's really capable and that she has the mandate of the people," said Francis Chua, FFCCI executive vice president.

The President's change of heart is also expected to be a boon to her government's foreign borrowing plans as this would finally lay to rest foreign investors' concern on the political uncertainty in the country, and the lesser the uncertainty the lower the interest rate on new borrowings.

Camacho expressed confidence that this latest development should increase demand for Philippine debt paper abroad in time for the DOF's plan to step up its foreign borrowings later this year.

The DOF is planning to prefund this year its programmed foreign borrowings in 2004 of up to $900 million to avoid the turbulent months in the run-up to the May elections.

Camacho said the guessing game over the President's political plans has fueled the political instability in the country and has led some foreign investors and credit risk rating agencies to take a cautious stand on the Philippines.

By baring her political intent to seek a full term next year, Camacho said the President has crystallized the political situation for foreign investors and credit-rating agencies.

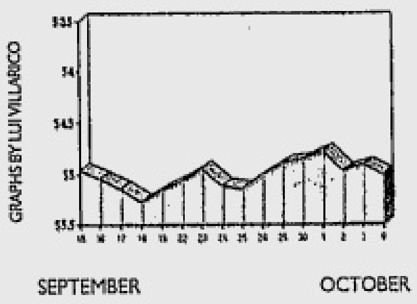
But local financial players said the financial markets had already discounted the President's weekend announcement.

The peso hardly moved yesterday, according to a trader, indicating that Ms Macapagal's decision was a foregone conclusion

GMA'S/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱55.02 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 6, 2003

¥110.96= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 6, 2003

GOLD: $372.50-373.00

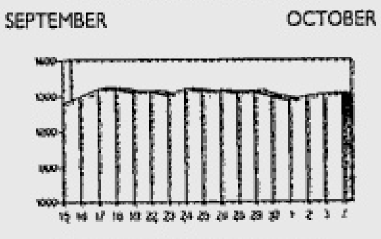
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 6, 2003

October 6, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.863707031	1.000000	54.911000
Japan	Yen	0.007795	0.009025	0.495600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.43574	1.662300	91.278600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112014	0.129690	7.121400
Switzerland	Franc	0.646536	0.748559	41.104100
Canada	Dollar	0.642496	0.743882	40.847300
Singapore	Dollar	0.50012	0.579039	31.795600
Australia	Dollar	0.588878	0.681803	37.438500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.291061	2.652590	145.656400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.230316	0.266660	14.642600
Brunei	Dollar	0.498676	0.577367	31.703800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000120	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.021838	0.025284	1.388400
UAE	Dirham	0.235163	0.272272	14.950700
Euro	Euro	1	1.157800	63.576000
Argentina	Peso	0.298344	0.345423	18.967500
Brazil	REAL	0.29969	0.346981	19.053100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134538	0.155768	8.553400
India	Rupee	0.019062	0.022070	1.211900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.227322	0.263193	14.452200
Mexico	New Peso	0.076863	0.088992	4.886600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513043	0.594001	32.617200
Norway	Kroner	0.12215	0.141425	7.765800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015021	0.017391	0.955000
South Africa	Rand	0.125491	0.145294	7.978200
Korea	Won	0.000754	0.000873	0.047900
Sweden	Kroner	0.111355	0.128927	7.079500
Syria	Pound	0.020565	0.023810	1.307400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025783	0.029851	1.639100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000542	0.000627	0.034400

STOCK MARKET

Stocks drift sideways

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES drifted sideways yesterday as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's weekend announcement that she will contest next May's election failed to perk up interest, traders said.

After months of denials, Ms Macapagal had given signals in the past few weeks that she was rethinking her earlier plan not to stand.

"People were expecting it. All the signs were there," said Joey Roxas, head of Eagle Equities.

The main share index rose 0.73 of a point or 0.06 percent to 1,305.46. Turnover was light at P366.06 million and far lower than Friday's P662 million.

The index is up 28.19 percent this year.

Light gains in key large caps, including the leading telecommunications firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT), helped keep the market slightly positive.

Traders said the market was likely to be locked in narrow ranges in the near term while players await fresh political developments, such as who will be Ms Macapagal's running mate and who else will contest the election.

"The consolidation we have been seeing should be almost over since we broke 1,300 points, but it's difficult to know which direction we will go in the coming days," Roxas said, adding he saw a tight trading range of 1,300 to 1,315 points.

PLDT rose P5 to P695 and topped the turnover list at P160.3 million. Reports quoted company president Manuel Pangilinan as saying PLDT was on track to post about P9 billion in net income this year, after provisions.

Manila Electric Co.'s B-shares, open to foreign investors, gained 1.06 percent to P23.75. On Friday, the utility said it was contemplating giving its heavy power users financial instruments similar to IOUs, in lieu of cash, for the final stage of its court-ordered customer refund plan. Its A-shares, restricted to Filipinos, ended flat at P15. *Reuters*

RP debt yields steady

YIELDS of government debt paper were mostly flat yesterday as the inflation rate of 2.9 percent in the year to September met market expectations, dealers said.

The market also shrugged off news that President Macapagal-Arroyo had reversed her pledge not to run in the May 2004 election when she announced her candidacy on Saturday.

"The market has expected that announcement. It's actually more positive in the sense that people have more options," said a dealer from a local bank.

Dealers said the market was watching for news about the budget deficit, which government officials said likely overshot targets for a second month in a row in September, largely due to deliberate spending on projects.

But they said any pressure on rates coming from the budget deficit data could be tempered by high market liquidity.

"The market will be looking to pick up on some highs," one dealer said.

The Bureau of Treasury is due to auction P3 billion worth of 10-year T-bonds today. The government will use the proceeds to help fund its budget deficit.

There were hardly any done deals in the secondary market for Treasury paper yesterday. Dealers said rates were likely to be rangebound in the next two months. *Reuters*

Inflation eases to 2.9% in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate slid further to 2.9 percent in September from 3 percent in August due to the slowdown in the prices of basic food items and electricity outside Metro Manila.

This brought the Philippines' average inflation rate for the first nine months to 3 percent, or way below the government's full-year target of 4.5-5.5 percent.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri yesterday said he expected inflation to remain stable for the rest of the year while admitting that there were still some threats arising from the higher cost of crude oil following the cut in production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the year-on-year inflationf rates for food, beverage and tobacco as well as housing and repairs slowed down to 1.4 percent and 3 percent in September from 1.5 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

The inflation for fuel, light and water went up by 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent while the rate for clothing, services and miscellaneous items remained at their corresponding August rates of 2.4 percent, 5.9 percent and 1.9 percent.

Electricity prices in selected provinces declined from the previous month as electric cooperatives reduced their rates in compliance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which allowed loan condonation in exchange for rate reductions.

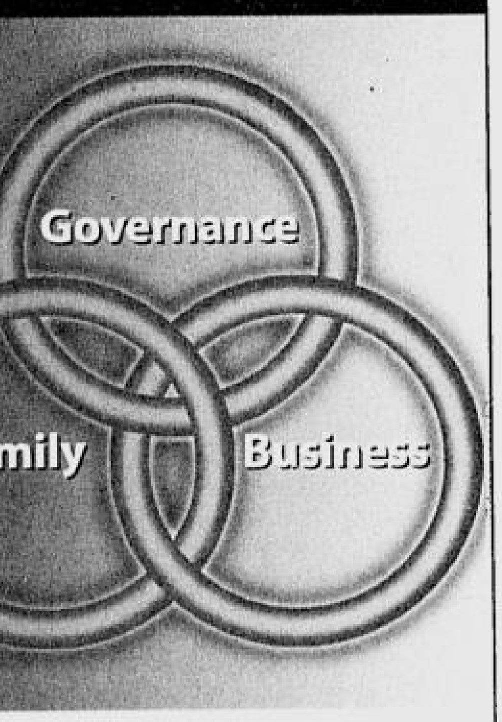
As such, the inflation rate outside Metro Manila eased to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent, offsetting the uptick in the rate in the capital region to 4.2 percent from 4.1 percent.

The government expects further electricity price reductions outside Metro Manila as the Energy Regulatory Commission continued to hear more applications from other electric cooperatives.

The price of rice, the country's main staple, also declined in September as ample inventories were augmented with the onset of the harvest season in some provinces.

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Managing Family Corporations



November 24-28, 2003
AIM CONFERENCE CENTER MANILA

- Defining the Role of the Family in the Business
- Identifying Key Issues & Challenges of Family Corporations
- Discovering Significant Areas for Improvement in the Management of Family Corporations

Program Overview

In this course, you will study together the powerful tools of effective families and businesses.
AIM believes in the strength of shared visions and strategic partnerships. Your partnership with AIM during the FAMCOR experience will enhance the partnerships within your own organization-partnerships borne out of the need to balance the interests of the family, professional employees, and the whole organization.
To help you achieve this critical balance, the FAMCOR course takes you through these important steps.
(1) An understanding of the family corporation as it currently exists. (2) Strategic planning to identify a vision for the future and (3) A plan to achieve the vision. The FAMCOR course will help you understand the management of family corporations from the following viewpoints: **(1) Family dynamics, (2) Family business systems and (3) Research.**

Recommended for

Family members and professional managers of family-owned businesses. Participants should be at least 21 years old or college graduates.

Program Benefit

This family business management course will help you to identify and analyze the key issues and challenges of family corporations. You will understand the distinctive qualities and interrelationships of family corporations as well as recognize potential areas for improvement within the family business. Through the viewpoints of family dynamics and family business systems, you will be able to develop and implement improvements to ensure growth.
For maximum benefit and impact, family corporations should be represented by at least two family members (from different generations) and at least one professional manager. However, individual enrollment is also acceptable.

Content

Family Systems:
- Genogram
- Individuation
- Power
- Conflict Management
- Family Theories

Business Systems:
- Succession
- Professionalization
- Professionalization and Corporate Culture
- Boards and Governance
- Managing Transitions
- Management Tools and Frameworks

Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzalez
Program Director
Prof. Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzales is a core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. She specializes in development and design. Over the years, she handled projects that are brought to the classroom as alternatives to cases. She is co-author of the book, *"Family Corporation in Transition"* and has written 50 cases and a research paper on various subjects such as corporate strategy, total quality management, problem-solving, decision-making, human resource development, organizational development, and general management. Her specific areas of interest are learning organizations, management of change and family corporations.
She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of the Philippines (1983) and a Master in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Manila University - Graduate School of Business (1992). She is currently enrolled in the Diploma Courses for Professional Counseling at the Center for Family Ministry at the Ateneo University.

Please fax this Reply Form to 893-2031 or 892-3260.

Please send me a brochure on the Managing Family Corporations.
Name:
Company:
Address:
Position:
Tel. No.: Fax No.: E-mail:
I'm also interested in receiving brochure/s on the following program/s: (please check)
☐ Creating Value Through Corporate Restructuring, *October 13-16*
☐ 6th IT: Project Management, *October 20-24*
☐ 5th Systems Thinking, *November 10-12*
☐ 112th Basic Management Program, *November 10 - 28*

early bird and group discounts available!

Contact: Corinne Funk-Zablan
Yola Genuino / Jane Manlapig / Edythe Bautista / Frency Importado - Marketing Group EXCELL
Tel. Nos. 892-4011 to 25 loc. 526, 166, 209, 228,416 ; Direct Lines 894-0043, 893-2050
E-mail: excell@dataserve.aim.edu.ph

35 years
EQUIS ACCREDITED
Asian Management in its Highest Global Standards

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

Website: http://www.aim.edu.ph

Like Moses, GMA sees the burning bush

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

NOT content with downgrading our 6 top banks plus Napocor to negative, Moody's has also downgraded my blood type from O to AB negative. Only sperm banks have been spared but three restrictions have been placed upon them. First, they only accept small deposits. Second, they don't accept non-performing assets. Third, when you withdraw, you lose all interest.

I saw some sexy photographs of Maui Taylor over the weekend. If I e-mail her that she has a beautiful figure, do you think she will hold it against me?

I received another strange letter, this time from a Miss J.D. who lives in Quezon City. She wrote, "A few months ago, you went into a seafood restaurant and pulled a mussel. Is it not possible that Kris Aquino went into the same place and caught chlamydia from eating clams?" "No, but you can catch it from squid balls."

A Chinese reader swears that he translated the following proverbs from the teachings of Confucius. I don't believe him but they are quite amusing so here are some of them:

Man who makes love to girl on side of mountain isn't on the level.

Man who fights with wife all day gets no piece at night.

Man with one chopstick goes hungry.

Passionate kisses, like spider's web, soon leads to undoing of fly.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired; man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.

Man who enters Thailand through turnstile sideways Bangkok.

A little girl asked her mother how old she was. The mother refused to divulge her age. She asked her mother how much she weighed but got no answer. She asked why Daddy slept in a different bed and was told to keep quiet. Next morning she found her mother's passport, which she studied intently. Then she went to her mother and said, "You are 45 years old." The mother admitted her age. "You are 5 feet 2 inches, and weigh 150 pounds." The mother was astonished but said nothing. "I know why Daddy doesn't sleep with you. You got an F in sex."

Arnold Schwarzenegger denied groping six women in the studio but admitted he made a little extra on the side.

You have probably seen the movie: 6 Days, wherein Arnold is cloned unknowingly by his company. His clone is identical in all respects except that he has a foul temper. He fights with all the staff and even with the President, so he gets fired. He uses up all Arnold's credit cards and empties his bank account. He goes to Arnold's house, makes love to his wife and then puts a dent in his brand new BMW.

It is not until Arnold sees the dent that he realizes something is wrong. When realization finally dawns, he fights his clone on top of the Empire State Building. As they are equal in strength, the fight sequence lasts 15 minutes but in the end, he throws the clone over the top to his death. In the last scene, he is charged, not with murder or manslaughter, but with making an obscene clone fall.

* * *

Again, there is not much to write about, hence the abundance of jokes. Ten days ago, I wrote to subscribers that the degree of risk was down to 4 and that it was time to re-enter the market. I recommended ABSP at P23, risk factor zero, and it touched P27 today, a rise of 18 percent in one week. I believe I also mentioned it in my article last week. I also recommended TEL at P640, risk factor 10, and 3 other stocks. All of them went up, with TEL touching a 2003 high of P705. The system is working beyond my wildest expectations. Unfortunately, I have not heard from any applicant with a math's degree and a trading license so I am not looking for any new subscribers or clients for now. Believe it or not, there are still three leaders with risk factor zero, which I am waiting to BUY.

The market has risen partly because it was oversold but also because of Wall Street's big rally. However, the economic news remains disappointing. Our exports are down for the fourth time in five months, the government has overspent its allowance for September, and the Bureau of Customs undershot its target so the monthly deficit has widened, making it more difficult for the government to contain the budget deficit. The latest statistics show that we owe P3 trillion and Finance Secretary Camacho said that the figure might rise to P7 trillion before a future administration can get it under control. By that time, we will be in dire straits.

After the G7 meeting, all Asian currencies appreciated against the dollar, especially the baht and the yen. Thailand has done so well that the baht has fallen to 39.50 and the stock market has been booming. In dollar terms, it is up 74 percent this year. The Japanese are again intervening to stop the yen from falling below 110. Over the past six months, only one currency has failed to appreciate against the weak dollar. No prizes for guessing which one.

Other depressing news to be released by government agencies is that the average earnings of a family of 5 is only P7,000 a month. This is appalling and I cannot imagine how people can exist on so little. Even worse news is that 34 percent of the country's 82 million people live below the poverty level of P4,835 a month. That is P160 a day for a family of 5. How can they possibly survive? Decades ago, the Philippines was second only to Japan in having the highest standard of living in South East Asia and the dollar was equal to P2.50.

The country has gone steadily downhill, even in the 23 years I have been here, and I cannot see any Lee Kuan Yew emerging in 2004. People have become disillusioned with politicians worldwide. Regardless of who wins the next election, I do not think the plight of the poor people is going to improve because of the widespread corruption. I doubt whether the poor will be any better off in 10 years time. There will simply be more of them.

In the US, the stock market fell steadily during the last week of September because performance-oriented money managers converted their book profits to real profits. They only get paid according to profits actually realized by Sept. 30 and book profits do not count. On Oct. 1, they jumped back into the market and reinvested all the money they had taken out. So the market rose sharply and the Nasdaq was up 4.9 percent on the week. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent but the government created 57,000 new jobs, against an expected loss of 25,000, and a loss of 41,000 the month before. This is good but nowhere near good enough. If President Bush is to keep his promise that every American will have a job, he has to create 150,000 new jobs every month, a task that I think is impossible.

FOOTNOTE: If you are bothered with itchy feet, bathe them with tea tree oil. It works and is much cheaper than anti-fungal creams.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

PLDT 'best buy' in RP, says survey

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was cited as the "best credit to buy" in the Philippines by a recent survey of fixed income investors in the Asian dollar bond market.

According to some 200 fixed income investors interviewed by Asset Benchmark Research, PLDT was a good buy because of its corporate governance policies and management competence, among others

"Bond investors are putting a premium on corporate governance in the same way that the issue has gained increasing currency among equity investors. Bond investors say that transparency of financial reporting and the competence of management are key investment criteria," The Asset, which published the survey results, said in a statement.

The fixed income investors included in the survey managed more than $75 billion in Asia Pacific fixed-income assets.

PLDT now counts as one of Asia's 30 best credits, according to assets.

The top five best credits for Asia were Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong, Petronas of Malaysia, Korea Development Bank, DBS Bank and Singapore Telecoms.

The PLDT group was also cited for having paid down $165 million in debts during the first half, including $60 million owed by cellular phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in an earlier interview that, as of the first six months of the year, the company was on track to meeting its $115-million debt obligations for the rest of the year.

The company was not likely to incur any new debts in the near future as its strong cash flows were enough to pay down existing obligations as well as finance future capital expenditures, he added.

"The PLDT group is on its ways to a heavy but consistent deleveraging story. This will redound to increased equity value of stocks," he said.

PLDT has another $416 million in debts maturing in 2004 and $532 million in 2005.

Since 2002, PLDT's healthy cash flow has been utilized to pare down debts. The company last year paid $209 million in obligations.

During the first six months of the year, PLDT's free cash flow turned around from a negative P8.3 billion in 2001 to P28 billion. This was attributed to reduced capital spending for both PLDT's fixed line operations and Smart.

PLDT is also currently cleaning up its balance sheet in preparation for the country's adoption of the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in 2005 as well as more stringent regulatory, auditing and disclosure requirements both here and abroad.

"While we have booked significant provisions in the first half of 2003, I would emphasize that with the exception of the (manpower reduction program) provision, these are principally non-cash in nature and, as such, will not affect our ongoing debt reduction program," Pangilinan said.

RCBC reports 17% rise in OFW remittances

By Elena R. Torrijos

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., a mid-sized universal bank largely owned by the Yuchengco family, has reported a 17 percent increase in remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers during the first seven months of the year.

The value of remittances increased to $504 million as of end-July from $430.8 million in the same period last year, largely due to the growing preference by Filipinos to send their money through banks rather than through informal channels.

RCBC senior vice president Articer Quebal said in an interview that the bank appeared on track to achieving its 2003 remittance target of around $900 million.

"Several years ago, remittances used to be channeled through the informal sector. Now it's the reverse. It's around 75 percent to 25 percent in favor of the banks," Quebal noted.

OFW remittances were seen to continue rising as new markets open up for Filipino labor and traditional markets remain on the hiring mode.

Ireland, for instance, has an initial requirement for 30,000 nurses while the United States and the United Kingdom continue to recruit overseas labor.

Some parts of Africa and Vietnam have also started to invite professionals to work in their countries.

RCBC currently has 400 'telemoney' centers to service OFW remittances.

LOAN PROBLEMS?

- Do you have past due loans and are you paying high interest rates?
- Do you need to restructure your loans?
- Is your bank foreclosing or has the bank foreclosed your collateral?

We can help you!!!

DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F LEGASPI SUITES, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 - 8184480 - 8180730 Fax No. 8193294

Napocor postpones bidding for oil pacts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has postponed the latest round of bidding for fuel contracts worth some P2.7 billion, a company official said yesterday.

Napocor originally planned to auction off contracts for the supply and delivery of bunker "C" and diesel shipments last Sept. 9, but was pushed back due to some "technicalities."

"There were some technicalities that Napocor had to consider so we had to reschedule the bidding," the official said. "We are meeting today (Monday) to also reevaluate the volume and budget for the contracts."

In an Aug. 11 notice to suppliers, Napocor said that it needed about 229.68 million liters of bunker "C" fuel and 2.25 million liters of diesel for the rest of 2003.

The bunker "C" contracts were worth P2.68 billion while diesel contracts were worth P36 million.

Bunker "C" shipments were intended for the combined-cycle plants in Bataan and Naga (Cebu); the diesel power plants in Zamboanga, Bauang (La Union), Subic and Bohol and Power Barge 104 stationed in Iloilo.

Diesel cargoes are intended for Power Barge 116 in Cebu, and the islands of Bantayan and Doong.

In July, Napocor auctioned off contracts for P3.6 billion worth of additional fuel supply for five power plants.

In a related development, Napocor said last week it would need 4.9 million tons of imported coal and 2.2 million tons of local coal in 2004, which would cost $228.9 million or about P12.6 billion.

GMA's election bid . . .

From page B1

even after she declared in December that she would not run in the May polls to lay vicious politicking to rest. The stock market was likewise hardly moved by the weekend announcement.

Political uncertainties leading to the May polls have often been cited by credit-rating agencies as a major drag to the country's economic growth.

Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings have downgraded their ratings on Philippine debt, partly due to the economic and financial strains caused by politics.

Moody's Investors Service also blamed the increasing political tension for downgrading its rating outlook on Philippine foreign borrowings to negative from stable last week.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Oct. 6, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	11,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	43	43	311,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	32.5	32.5	670,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	27.5	227,600
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	16,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	31	31	5,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1610	1610	30
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1215	1200	1215	1,460
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	75,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	705	700	700	38,660
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	2,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	1,400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	4,630,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	700	695	695	229,590
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	10,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15	15	287,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	232,700
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	2	1,384,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	328,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	18,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	265,600
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	400,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	15,300
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	61	61	26,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	4,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	4,283,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	131,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	1,800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	38,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	2,720,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	110,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.75	17.75	222,800
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	109,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.92	2,510,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	5,070,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.39	320,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.14	220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.2	0.27	0.2	0.27	950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3	3	3	3	11,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	8,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	2,050,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	210,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. CORP. (PDR)	26	27	26	26	451,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	5,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6,202,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	170,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,031,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,220,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	2,165,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	23,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	4,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	6,950,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0065	0.0055	0.0065	515,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.007	0.0055	0.007	248,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	43,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	9,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,385,290	44,128,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	89,049,950	259,777,810.00
PRO	11,399,000	54,271,680.00
Mining	799,750,000	7,550,550.00
OIL	57,130,000	213,500.00
GRAND TOTALS :	958,714,240	365,941,815.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	430.69	DOWN 2.72
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,922.34	UP 1.82
PRO	570.77	UP 3.55
Mining	1,397.54	UP 42.41
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	798.42	DOWN 0.77
Composite	1,305.46	UP 0.73

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90.
NO. OF TRADES: 1,491

DISCLOSURES

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 30, 8 a.m. at the McKinley Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. confirmed that it was planning to sell P14 billion worth of idle assets to an asset management company on top of the P16 billion worth of bad loans it sold to Asia Recovery Corp.

***

SOUTH China Resources Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Oct. 22, 10 a.m. at the William McKinley Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 2 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

ELECTED directors of Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. were Antonio Sevilla, Brigido Dulay, Santiago Cua, Alfonso Reyno Jr., Ferdinand Domingo, Exequiel Robles, Mariza Santos Tan, Juanita Uy-Tan, Raymundo Feliciano, Ruben Aldea and Rolando Castro.

***

EXPORT and Industry Bank Inc. disclosed the appointment of independent director Francis Lee as additional member of the bank's compliance committee.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

INTEREST RATES

October 6, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 6-Oct-03	MART1 3-Oct-03
1 Month	6.27	6.2232
3 Months	6.2804	6.2393
6 Months	7.2367	7.295
1 Year	7.9857	7.95
2 Years	9.0367	9.0518
3 Years	9.7533	9.7433
4 Years	10.2367	10.24
5 Years	10.4518	10.4654
7 Years	11.2067	11.1783
10 Years	11.4863	11.4893
20 Years	11.9983	12.0008
25 Years	12.2417	12.255

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS

Asean seen pursuing creation of AEC

By Michelle V. Remo

MEMBERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are seen moving closer to realizing the proposed Asean Economic Community (AEC), envisioned to be the region's counterpart of the European Union, as their leaders meet for the Asean Summit on Oct. 7-8.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who flew to Bali, Indonesia last week for the summit, the economic ministers of Asean member-countries will be reporting their recommendations on how to make the AEC operational. Asean countries were earlier asked to submit proposals on how to push through with the planned AEC.

"Asean is on the verge of full realization of its free trade area. We now want to apply a second wave of liberalization to further integrate our members' economies into a whole that will be greater than the sum of its parts," said Roxas in a statement.

He said Asean countries, as an initial step to fulfilling the AEC, were expected to come up with common measures that would enhance trade facilitation among Asean countries. He explained that such measures would cover the areas of customs procedures and dismantling of non-tariff barriers.

The common measures to improve trade facilitation will be applied to 11 priority sectors, including automotive, garments and textiles industries, e-commerce, healthcare, airlines, hospitality/tourism, wood-based products, marine and aquatic products, rubber, agro-based products and electronics.

"The new feature (of the plan to establish common trade facilitation measures) is the focus on 11 priority integration projects, which shall comprise the spearheading of efforts and become the example which can be applied later to a broader range of sectors," said Roxas.

"The intention is to make these sectors the paradigm of liberalized trade within Asean, making us a single market and production base in these areas," he added.

The Asean recently formed the High Level Task Force on Asean Integration to facilitate the creation of the AEC. The task force is composed of vice ministers and permanent secretaries, who are tasked to identify bottlenecks in pursuing the Asean plan of consolidating member-countries into one economic community and to come up with solutions to those problems.

Finance seeks tariff increases to boost revenue collections

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is keen on increasing the country's tariff rates to boost the Bureau of Customs' eroding collection and help narrow the budget deficit.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the trade liberalization program in the 1990s was one of the reasons why the government's revenue has been declining and the budget deficit increasing.

Camacho noted that customs collections hit 5.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992 but the overzealous reduction in tariffs on a broad swath of goods in the last 10 years had brought the BOC's revenue to only 2.4 percent of GDP.

"The foregone revenue from the tariff cuts would have been substantial enough to cut our budget deficit by half," Camacho said.

He said that had the government been more deliberate and calculating in its trade liberalization policy, the BOC's collections would have not dropped drastically and the government would have had a more manageable deficit to handle.

Based on a government study, Camacho said the Philippines could technically raise its average tariff rate to 25 percent without breaking any of its commitments to the World Trade Organization and the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta).

This means that the Philippines could possibly increase its duties currently pegged at an average of 6 percent by as much as four times. However, Camacho said the doubling of current tariffs on selected items would be enough to have an impact on the government's bottom line. He noted that Thailand's average tariff rate was pegged at 16 percent or nearly three times the Philippine average.

The DOF's endorsement of further tariff increases as a source of revenues dovetails with the Department of Trade and Industry's previous declaration that the government would delay the opening of the local markets and that it would consider hiking duties on key industries to help them cope with the harsh economic conditions.

₱962-M lending project OKd

THE CABINET-level Investment Coordination Committee has approved a P962-million special lending facility for solid waste management projects of local government units (LGUs). The facility will be opened by the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

In a statement yesterday, the ICC lead agency National Economic and Development Authority said the Integrated Solid Waste Management Program was aimed at providing an improved and comprehensive solid waste management system in the country.

"The project will provide financing to eligible borrowers who will employ modern management methods, equipment and facilities to achieve cost effectivity and technical efficiency while increasing the responsiveness of service providers and operators," the Neda said.

"The project is expected to improve health and sanitation conditions, alleviate flood problems especially in urbanized, or densely populated areas, promote tourism industry, and protect the environment," it added.

The project also involves the provision of sub-loans to address the investment requirements of LGUs in the development and implementation of sustainable solid waste management projects.

Doris C. Dumlao

ARTHRITIS in 5 MINUTES
INSTANT PAIN KILLER DEVICE
- Stops ARTHRITIS In minutes!
- No Pills No side effects
- Ideal for Rheumatism, Gout and Nerve Numbness
- Also for Stroke/Paralysis Therapy at home
- Handy and battery-operated

NISSEI NERVE STIMULATOR
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor 45-636-3513
SM MANILA
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr. Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW
SM NORTH EDSA
SM SOUTHMALL
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635 5061
CEBU 262 32 39

External reserves down slightly in Sept.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves dropped to $16.06 billion in September from $16.16 billion a month ago due to payments of government obligations, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The external reserves included the $2 billion used as collateral for short-term loans. Using the more conservative formula of the International Monetary Fund, which deducts the amount used as collateral from the total, the reserves as of September stood at only $14 billion.

A declining GIR puts pressure on the peso as it implies the weakness of the central bank to defend the local currency against speculation.

Fortunately, the peso has been gathering strength since last week. It closed 55.02 to $1 yesterday.

Consisting mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank. It also includes gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the IMF.

A month ago, higher gold prices helped push the external reserves up. Gold accounts for 20 percent of the GIR.

A central bank official said the payment of the national government's maturing obligations offset some $250 million in inflow from the bond issue of the National Power Corp. Napocor sold 15-year bonds guaranteed by the Overseas Private Investment Corp. of the United States.

The BSP said the current level of reserves was sufficient to pay for more than four months worth of imports of goods and services. It is also equivalent to more than 2.5 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity or 1.3 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity basis plus principal payments on medium and long term loans of the public and private sectors falling due in the next 12 months.

The dollar reserves reached an all-time high of $17.36 billion in March 2002 due to the proceeds of a $1 billion long-term borrowing of the national government.

AFFORDABLE PABX THAT WORKS WONDERS!
WITH SMART FEATURES
BRAND NEW with WARRANTY
INFINITE Systems Technology Corp
P8,800
Call for FREE DEMO at 892-9073 to 77

Ford Motor nearing CBU export target

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Ford Motor Co. Phils. is right on track towards achieving its target to export 14,000 units of vehicles this year.

To date, the automotive company has so far produced 10,000 vehicles for export to Indonesia and Thailand, according to a company report obtained by the INQUIRER.

The report said the number was expected to reach more than 100,000 units within the next five years when Ford ramps up production in its P4-billion, 30,000-square meter plant in this town.

The company has duly updated President Macapagal-Arroyo about this development, according to the report.

It said that the on-going Ford Export Program further reinforced its position as the only exporter of completely built-up vehicles in the country, an initiative made possible by the Asean Free Trade Agreement.

With this, Ford has been able to assemble and export the Ford Escape, Ford Lynx, Mazda Tribute and Mazda 323 out of the Philippines.

Ford has also unveiled recently the Ford Ranger Limited Edition and the Escape 4x2 AT.

Consumers can also look forward to the soon-to-be-launched Ford Everest—a 2.5-liter inter-cooled turbo diesel engine SUV designed specifically for the Asian market.

These new members to the Ford family of vehicles are expected to meet the varying demands and needs of its discerning consumers.

According to Henry T. Co, Ford president, the Ford Vehicle Export Program proved that the Philippine auto industry could compete with its counterparts in the Asean.

"We want to continue building our export program to create career opportunities for our growing number of employees. We are now second to Thailand in terms of size of operation in the Asean under the Ford organization. So we have a very important role in the region," Co added.

He expects that in three to four years, with the increase in both vehicle exports and domestic demand from 6 to 15 percent, Ford will be able to increase its production volume to reach the plant's full capacity of 40,000 units per year.

With the Ford Export Program, Ford contributes to the creation of thousands of jobs in the auto industry aside from pumping millions of dollars to the national coffers.

To date, the export program has generated $155 million from Philippine-made Ford vehicles.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southen Luzon Bureau

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati)
Sheer Driving Pleasure
BMW Certified Pre-Owned

50% down, 12 months, 0% interest.

Attractive financing up to 50% down, 0% Interest for your BMW Certified Pre-Owned at Prestige Cars Makati BMW.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

Year	Model	Color	Interior Color	Mileage	Price	Status
2003	BMW 316i	Orient Blue	Black Fabric	8k	1,425,000.00	
2002	BMW 316i	Oxford Green	Black Fabric	5k	1,380,000.00	Sale Pending
2003	BMW 318i	Steel Gray	Black Fabric	9k	1,750,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	7k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Black Leather	7k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Black Sapphire	Beige Leather	8k	2,320,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Black Leather	11k	2,300,000.00	Sale Pending
2003	BMW 325iM-Sport	Imola Red	Black Leather	4k	2,450,000.00	
2003	BMW 525i Exec	Chiaretto Red	Beige Leather	6k	2,850,000.00	
2003	BMW X5 3.0d	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	1k	4,650,000.00	Sale Pending

Other Pre-Owned BMWs

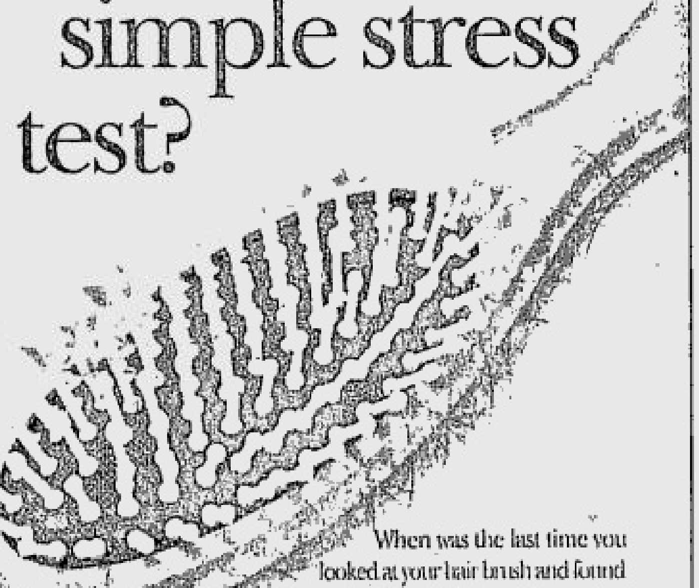
Year	Model	Color	Interior Color	Mileage	Price	Status
1998	BMW 316i	Alpine White	Black Fabric	70k	690,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 320i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	50k	760,000.00	
1996	BMW 523i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	80k	1,350,000.00	

* We back up all Certified Pre-Owned BMWs automatically with BMW Factory Warranty for 12 months or 20,000 km. * BMW trade-in accepted.

BMW Certified Pre-Owned.
Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Toll Free 1-800-10-BMW-CARS • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • Email: bmwcertifiedpreowned@prestigemakati.com • Showroom hours: 8am to 7pm, Monday-Sunday.

As a balding person, could you pass this simple stress test?



When was the last time you looked at your hair brush and found no damaged or loose hair? Apart from natural wear-and-tear, stress, fatigue and depression can deplete energy levels and affect the condition of your hair. Unfortunately for both men and women, this can result in hair thinning, becoming brittle or even falling out. If you find that you are losing hair, it makes sense to check with one of our seasoned experts at Svenson International. Our treatments are proven to eliminate Dihydrotestosterone, the main source of hair loss, and to help hasten the hair regrowth process. Call us today at Svenson International and book your FREE CONSULTATION where we will attend to all your hair loss and baldness concerns.

Svenson

MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
819 3336	372 6631	243 0128	842 1389	032 2340851
816 1260	372 6632	244 8913	842 4181	032 2340853

OPENING HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8AM-7PM SATURDAY: 8AM-3PM

9 DAYS TO GO...

"Corporate Citizenship: Touching Lives, Strengthening Linkages"
16-18 October 2003 • World Trade Center Metro Manila

AGRI LINK
10th International Agribusiness Exhibition and Seminars

Features:
• Trade Display • Retail Selling • Outdoor Display (Live Animals, Greenhouse)
• Technical Seminars • Cooking Demonstrations

Sponsored by:
The Infarmco Group
Asia Giant Enterprises
General Milling Corporation
MONSANTO

Organized by Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development, Inc.
3/F Administration Bldg., FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila Tels.: +63 2 8384549, 8384605, 8384491, 8384852
Fax: +63 2 8384573, 8384854 Email: frld@info.com.ph Website: www.frld.org/agrilink

FOOD LINK
4th International Food Processing/Packaging and Food Products Exhibition

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(Please Come in Business Attire)

12th East Asian Actuarial Conference

The Actuary in Good Governance

Actuarial Society of the Philippines hosts 12th East Asian Actuarial Congress

THE ACTUARIAL Society of the Philippines (ASP) will host the 12th East Asian Actuarial Congress (EAAC) on the theme of "The Actuary In Good Governance" on October 6-9, 2003 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati in Manila, Philippines.

The 12th EAAC is taking place amid a global environment marked by greater uncertainty in the financial markets, high-profile corporate scandals, and a growing distrust for governments and private institutions alike. In such an atmosphere, stakeholders and the general public are turning to the model of good governance as recourse in safeguarding their interests and preserving the foundations of an equitable and progressive economic society.

What is the actuary's unique role and contribution towards good governance? This will be the focus of the 12th EAAC, where speakers, resource persons and members of the international actuarial community come together to discuss, re-examine and redefine the actuarial profession in the context of this ever-growing mandate for good governance.

As counterpoint to the highly cerebral fare characteristic of actuarial congresses, the ASP has also prepared a very exciting cultural and entertainment program which will showcase some of the talent and artistry that Filipinos are proud of. With the activities that have been lined up, the organizers are confident that the delegates will find their participation well worth their time.

There are many ways to participate in the 12th EAAC: present a paper, chair a session, be a sponsor, or attend as delegate. Interested parties may get in touch with the organizers through any of the following contact details:

12th EAAC website:
www.eaac.actuary.org.ph
Conference Secretariat:
Meetings, Exhibitions and Events Team (MEET)
Telephones: (632) 436-6580, (632) 426-0093
Facsimile: (632) 436-6581
Email: meet@ibahn.net
Philippine Host Committee:
Actuarial Society of the Philippines
Telephone: (632) 892-0693
Facsimile: (632) 814-0824
Email: asp@actuary.org.ph
Website: www.actuary.org.ph

October 6-9, 2003 Makati Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines

Messages

ON behalf of the Filipino people, I extend my cordial greetings to all the organizers and delegates to the 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference (EAAC) with the theme, "The Actuary in Good Governance."

This gathering of actuaries in the East Asian region is vital to the continued growth of the insurance sector and business entities in Asia. I hope this event will inspire all of you to meet the challenges presented by uncertainties in the global financial markets and to work hand in hand with the government in creating a vibrant business environment.

I am confident that the 12th EAAC will serve as an opportunity for all of you to discuss, re-examine and redefine the actuarial profession in the context of good governance.

Sama-sama tayo tungo sa isang matatag na Republika!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

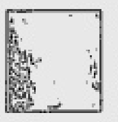
WE are deeply honored that the Philippines is once again the venue for the 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference.

East Asian is host to a strong and credible insurance industry that has not only generated income and sources of livelihood for its peoples but has fostered the Asian economy as well. Having supplied the region with a steady source of funds, the industry has not only supported Asia's investment requirements but has also promoted its rapid and sustained growth.

I laud the conference for constantly providing insurance professionals an effective venue to strengthen its network towards building stronger and more expansive financial structures in East Asia.

Congratulations and may your stay in the Philippines be truly productive and enjoyable.

Jose Isidro N. Camacho
Secretary
Department of Finance



TO THE DELEGATES of the 12th Asian Actuarial Conference from all over the region, Greetings and Mabuhay!

The choice of your conference theme, "The Actuary in Good Governance," is indeed an apt and timely response to the multitude of challenges facing the insurance industries in the global arena today. And I commend you on your coming here to the Philippines to partake in unique learning opportunities and to experience Filipino hospitality.

As actuaries, you have a significant responsibility for the welfare of the industry and your countries as well. This notwithstanding the recent negative global and domestic events that have continued to weigh heavily on the insurance industries in particular and the global financial markets in general. I am confident that the situation would eventually improve and normalize especially if we all work together reaching our beyond our own territories. With perseverance, we stand to learn and benefit from the experiences of these difficult times, given our paradigm for good governance.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to the Actuarial Society of the Philippines, your gracious and hospitable hosts and organizers for this year, on the occasion of its 50th Foundation Anniversary. Congratulations on a successful conference!

Eduardo T. Malinis
Insurance Commissioner

ALLOW me to extend my warm greetings to the delegates of the 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference. Welcome to the Philippines!

Your theme for the conference "The Actuary in Good Governance" is in the keeping with our current thrust of promoting good corporate governance in the private sector. Your profession has its own unique role to play in ensuring the success of this effort.

With the business environment becoming more globalized, technology-oriented and deregulated, more complex financial instruments have come out in the market. The stiff competition not only among the companies but also between industries has resulted in difficult and challenging governance situations. All these have highlighted the critical role that actuaries play in ensuring transparency, accountability and proper disclosure-the key ingredients of good governance.

We hope that the EAAC can be an effective avenue for the actuarial practitioners to share the experiences that would help them not only in their respective areas of business but also in hurdling the challenges of the global industry as a whole.

It is hoped that the time spent here in the Philippines will be most fruitful and beneficial to all. To the EAAC delegates and the Actuarial Society of the Philippines, Mabuhay!

Lilia R. Bautista
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission

DEAR Colleagues and Friends,
Welcome to the Philippines!

Today's global environment is characterized by rapid change and volatility, which demands greater accountability, higher standards of professionalism and more relevant competencies, even as it calls for new mindsets, creative solutions and quick responses. In such an atmosphere, public and private corporations are turning to the principles of good governance to preserve sound business disciplines and maintain strong consumer and stakeholder confidence, even while they seek better approaches to managing risks and creating organizational value.

Today's actuary can neither be isolated nor immune from the major challenges posed by this global and volatile environment. As we celebrate our 50th Foundation Anniversary, the Actuarial Society of the Philippines is specially privileged to host two prestigious events that highlight the actuary's unique role in good governance and public interest.

The 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference takes place from 6-9 October at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel with the theme, "The Actuary in Good Governance." We are proud to receive over 360 delegates from the international actuarial community to discuss 41 papers which re-examine and redefine the actuarial profession in the context of this ever-growing mandate for good governance.

We are also honored to welcome the select participants of the 3rd International Professional Seminar of Leaders of the Actuarial Profession and Actuarial Educators in Asia and the Pacific. Organized by the International Actuarial Association, through its Advice and Assistance Committee and its International Promotion and Education Fund (IPEF), this year's seminar will be held on 10-12 October 2003 at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Centre with the theme "The Profession of Actuary and the Application of Actuarial Skills in the Public Interest."

We are confident that these conferences will make significant contributions towards the professional development of actuaries worldwide and in strengthening the ties that bind the international actuarial community.

We thank you for coming to visit Manila, and wish you a most pleasant and enriching experience amid the bright smiles and unparalleled hospitality our country and people are known for.

Again, welcome to the Philippines!

Sgd. Maria Victoria Lim

Sgd. Alfonso P. Garcia Jr.

International Actuarial Association holds seminar in Manila

THE INTERNATIONAL Actuarial Association (IAA), in cooperation with the Actuarial Society of the Philippines (ASP) will hold the 3rd International Professional Seminar of Leaders of the Actuarial Profession and Actuarial Educators in Asia and the Pacific on October 10-12 at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center (ACCM) in Makati City. This is being convened by the International Actuarial Association (IAA), through its Advice and Assistance Committee and its International Promotion and Education Fund (IPEF).

This Seminar (IAA/IPEF Seminar) aims to bring together from countries in Asia and the Pacific, a representative group of:

- leaders of national actuarial associations
- promoters of future national actuarial associations
- those concerned with actuarial education, from universities and actuarial associations
- actuaries working with regulators and supervisors of financial institutions, in particular insurance companies and pension funds.

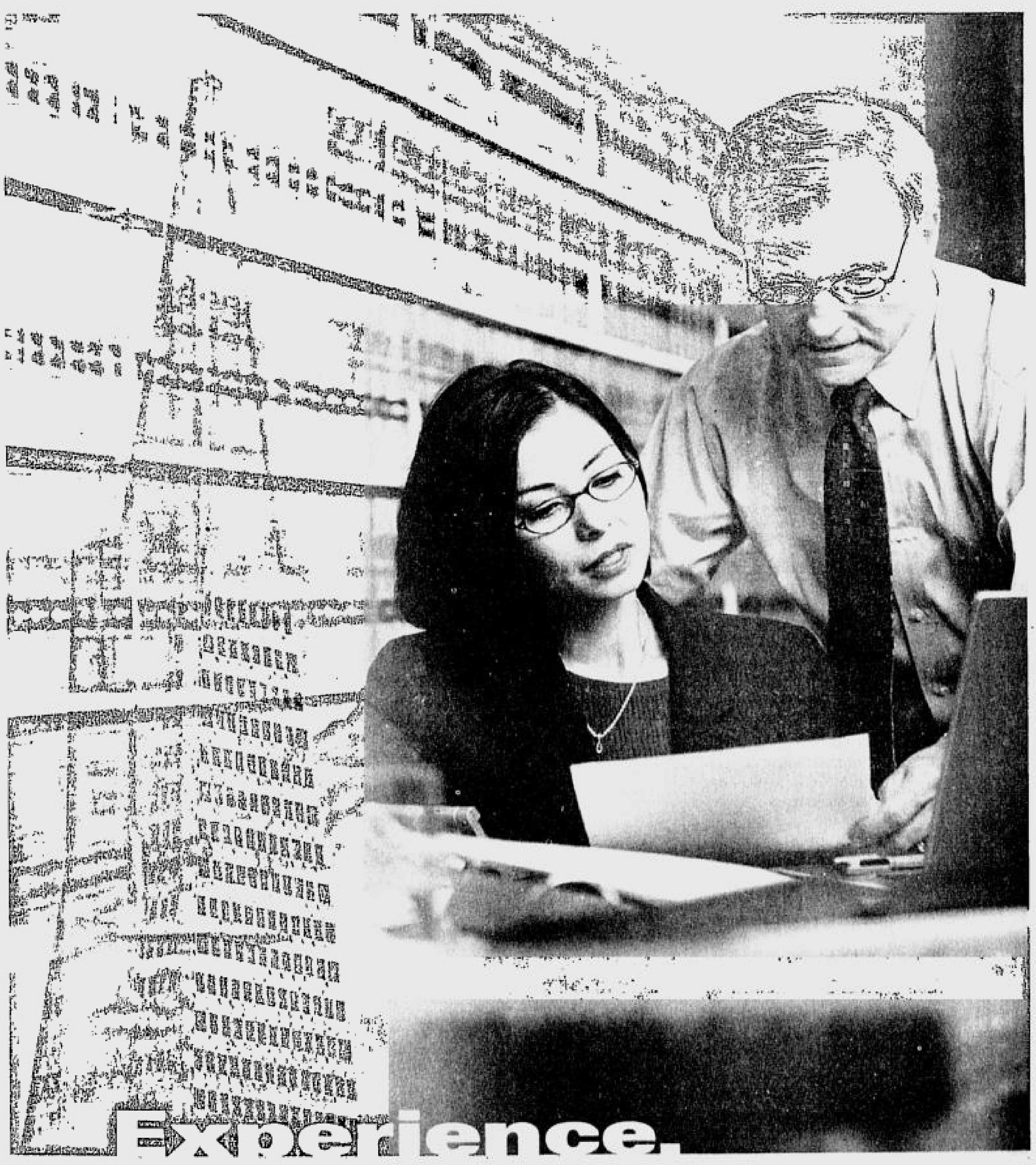
At the 2nd International Professional Meeting, organized by IAA/IPEF in Kuala Lumpur, January 11-14, 2001, and generously hosted by the Actuarial Society of Malaysia and Bank Negara Malaysia, many participants expressed a desire that a further meeting be held in the region.

The Actuarial Society of the Philippines has invited the IAA to hold the Third Seminar, at which it is proposed to place emphasis on:

- the education of actuaries and the promotion of actuarial courses in universities
- the development of the actuarial association as a professional body;
- the role of the actuary in social security policy and funding
- the role of the actuary and the actuarial association in the regulation and supervision of financial institutions including insurance companies and pension funds;
- professionalism and the role of actuarial standards;
- the establishment of the actuarial profession in new countries
- actuarial education, basic and continuing, implementation by the IAA of the core syllabus and guidelines for full membership the IAA and the moves toward globalization of actuarial education.

This seminar is being held back to back with the 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference (EAAC), which will take place in the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on 6-9th October 2003, immediately preceding the IAA/IPEF Seminar.

The IAA is most grateful to the President and Board of Governors of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines for their kind invitation to hold the meeting in Manila, and for their assistance in making the arrangements for the meeting. The IAA is also grateful to the Actuaries Office in Hong Kong for making available valuable secretarial assistance.



Experience is the best teacher. For more than 30 years Transamerica Reinsurance has worked side by side with hundreds of companies addressing the toughest issues of the day. Put our experience to work for your company.

TRANSAMERICA
REINSURANCE

THE POWER OF INSIGHT.™

The Actuarial Society of the Philippines

WITH A MEMBERSHIP of 59 Fellows, 43 Associates, and 87 Affiliates, the Actuarial Society of the Philippines continues to uphold the standards and ideals of the actuarial profession through its 50 years of existence.

Formally organized in 1953 as the Philippine Actuarial Society by 8 actuaries, including 4 of the pioneer actuaries in the country namely, Dr. Emeterio Roa, Sr., Dr. Luis Salvosa, Mr. Exequiel Sevilla and Dr. Manuel Hizon, the Society aimed to advance actuarial science in the Philippines through the exchange of ideas and the promotion of actuarial studies and other related projects. In its early days, with a limited number of members, the Society was more of a social club than a technical or professional organization.

Five years after its establishment, the Society held its first convention and this signaled the start of development for the Society. In 1964, the Society adopted its Guide to Professional Conduct, which defined the responsibility of the actuary as a professional. To further firm up the Society's aim, it was incorporated as the Actuarial Society of the Philippines, Inc. and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The membership structure was changed from a single level to three (3) categories--Fellow, Associate and Affiliate. This structure is maintained to this day.

Through the years, the exposure of actuaries in the Philippines has increased significantly. No longer are they limited to working with insurance companies but are also involved in other industries and practices such as pre-need, employee benefits, healthcare, consulting, regulations and banking. And with these changes, the Society continues to institute initiatives to keep up with the expanded role of the actuary. Committees are formed to enhance the development of the actuaries' profession. Improvements in the examination syllabus have been implemented to hone the actuaries' expertise in his chosen career.

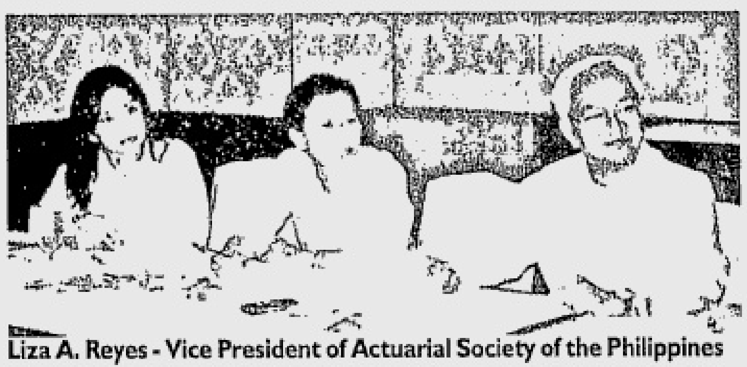
To address ethics issues, the Society created the Ethics Committee in the mid-1980s. This body was tasked to receive, hear and investigate any complaints relating to non-adherence to the Society's Guide to Professional Conduct of a member. In 1988, this Committee was reconstituted into the Professional Standards Review Council (PSRC) and a Code of Conduct was adopted. The PSRC continues to provide interpretative opinions and rulings on cases involving breaches on the Code of Conduct, to investigate questions and complaints on the conduct of members and to conduct the Fellowship Admission Session (FAS) for applicants for Fellowship status. The FAS was later renamed as Fellowship Advancement Session for fellows' continuing education as well.

A major feat of the Society was done in 1998 when it acquired recognition as a full member organization of the International Actuarial Association (then known as the IFAA). It was also around this time that the initial stages of the Society's Continuing Education Program, an accreditation system where qualification is granted by earning credit hours of technical work such as on seminars and technical papers.

Since 1958, the Society has been holding its annual convention. Actuaries are able to benefit from the papers presented during the convention, which in recent years are no longer limited to purely actuarial topics. Speakers of varying backgrounds have been invited to talk about topics that may not necessarily be actuarial in nature but can be interlinked with the work and responsibilities of actuaries. The annual convention, normally held outside of Metro Manila, also serves as a means to foster ties among the actuaries and those with close links with the actuaries.

On the occasion of the ASP's 50th foundation anniversary year, the theme chosen is "The Actuary in Good Governance." In addition to the celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary, ASP will be playing host to the 12th East Asian Actuarial Conference, which will be held here in Manila, Philippines. A big number of actuaries from 9-member Asian countries will be joining ASP members and supporters to listen to 52 international as well as local speakers present their papers. The expected number of delegates to this year's conference is close to 300. As with all other gatherings, this will also be a time for Asian actuaries to exchange notes.

Truly, after 50 years, the Actuarial Society of the Philippines has come a long way.



Liza A. Reyes - Vice President of Actuarial Society of the Philippines and Vice Chairperson of the Organizing Committee IAA-IPEF Seminar. Maria Victoria Lim - President of Actuarial Society of the Philippines, Alfonso P. Garcia, Jr. - Chairman of the Organizing Committee EAAC.

THE PROFESSION OF ACTUARY AND THE APPLICATION OF ACTUARIAL SKILLS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

10 - 12 October 2003
Asian Institute of Management Conference Centre
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Manila, The Philippines

Agenda

9 October 2003
18.00 - 20.00 Registration at the Seminar venue, AIM

10 October 2003
08.00 - 09.00 Registration at the Seminar venue, AIM
09.15 – 09.45 Opening ceremony Welcome addresses from ASP and IAA
Chair: Bob Collett
Speakers MariaVictoria Lim, President ASP
Jim MacGinnitie, President IAA

9.45 – 10.15 Keynote address – Social security system development.
Chair
Speaker Ms Corazon de la Paz

10.15 - 10.45 Tea/Coffee break.
10.45 - 12.45 Working paper: Development of actuarial profession in the Asia/Pacific region. Followed by a brief introduction from each country: Overview of recent developments in the actuarial profession in that country, and in particular any important points to add to the rapporteur's summary. (Note that there is a later session on actuarial education developments.)
Chair: Catherine Prime
Presenter Stephen Handler

12.45 - 14.30 Break (including lunch)
14.30 - 16.00 Working Paper: Professionalism and application of actuarial skills in the public interest: statutory roles, corporate governance, disclosure.

The International Actuarial Association (IAA), established in 1895, is a non-profit-making, non-political, non-Governmental Organisation. It is on the Roster of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) and on the Special List of the International Labour Office (ILO). It has the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) as Institutional Members

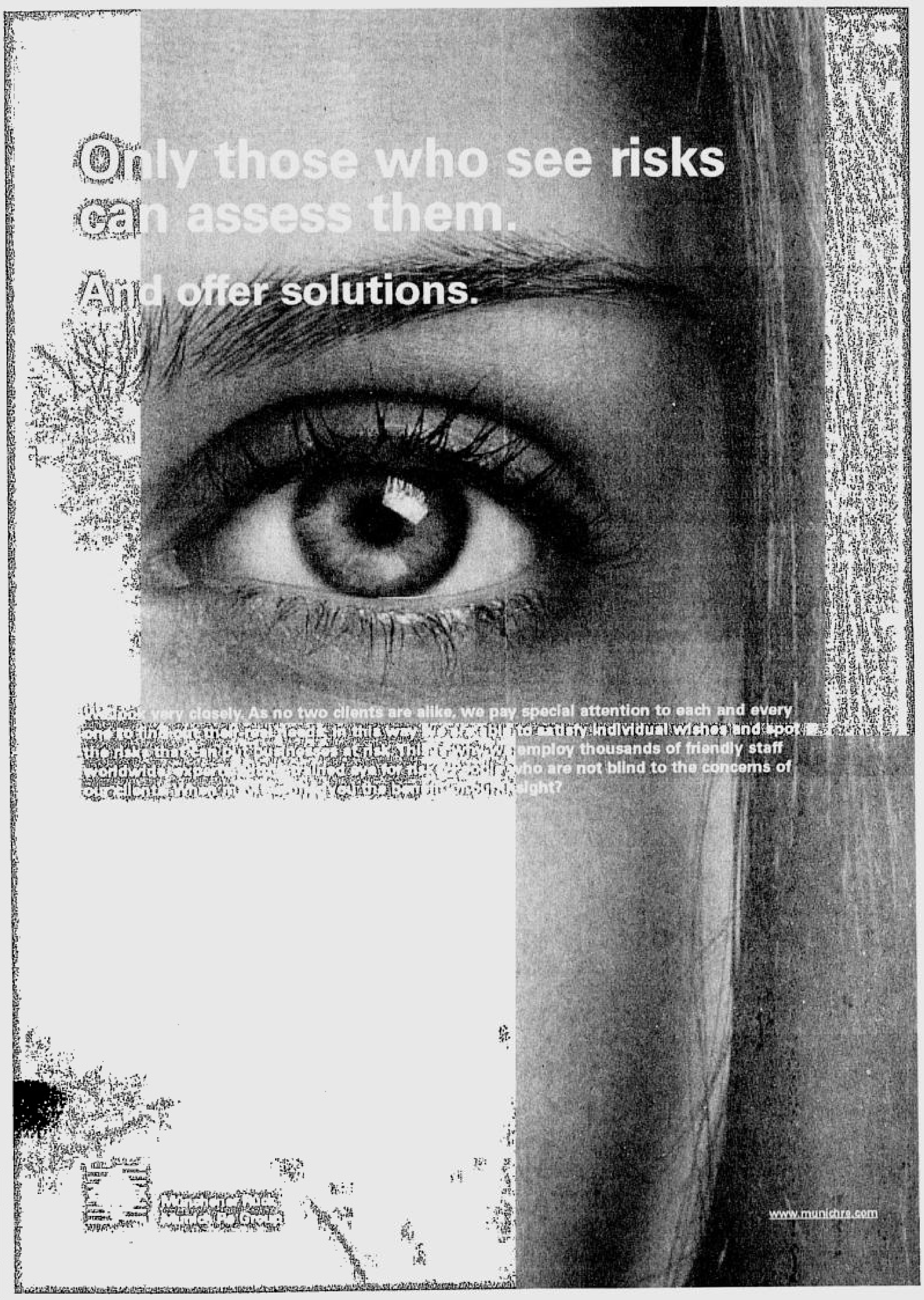
Third International Professional Seminar of Leaders of the Actuarial Profession and Actuarial Educators in Asia and the Pacific
THE PROFESSION OF ACTUARY AND THE APPLICATION OF ACTUARIAL SKILLS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST
10 - 12 October 2003 (Location, Manila, The Philippines)

Chair:
Speakers: Catherine Prime
'Corporate governance, disclosure, relationships with company directors, auditors and regulators'
Masaaki Yoshimura
'Japanese Life insurance market and the role of the Appointed Actuary'

16.00 - 16.30 Tea coffee break.
16.30 - 17.30 Discussion: Professionalism and application of actuarial skills in the public interest.
Chair:

19.30 – 22.00 ASP 50th Anniversary Celebration with IAA/IPEF participants invited
Speaking on behalf of IAA: Jim MacGinnitie, President IAA

Allianz
PHILAM LIFE
RGA Reinsurance
SCOR
Ayala Life Assurance Inc.
Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Co.
The Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
KPMG Laya, Managhaya & Co.
Manulife Phils. Inc.
Sunlife of Canada (Phils.) Inc.


Only those who see risks can assess them.
And offer solutions.
We look very closely. As no two clients are alike, we pay special attention to each and every
to satisfy individual wishes and spot
employ thousands of friendly staff
worldwide
who are not blind to the concerns of
sight?
Munich Re Group
www.munichre.com

ASIA
INSURANCE REVIEW
DEDICATED TO ASIA'S INSURANCE INDUSTRY
http://www.asiainsurancereview.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8970808 (Trunk) Fax 8974000
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

P5T Complete Hse Plan P4T Actual Land Survey P500 Lot Plan 757-1028

HEALTH/FITNESS

Weight Less
Call 521-9683 / 0917-4770408

MASSAGE

2581378 LICENSED GUYS

Akhin Thai Masg 50%Off Mla 8347357 Cebu 032-2532597

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE 11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

HUNKS TOUCH 0922-8036173

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0920-6274243

MACKY'S MALE MASSEURS CALL OR TXT 7412767 24H

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

THAI Msge Lic 0919-4743278

Unwind Lic. Massage 752-0437

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09195367404

FEELS GOOD 4127758

JOJO HHMS M/F 0920-8635511

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•ADEPT TUTORS 751-1584

ASAP 8944311/8930449 Lai

LIGHT 5301315

INSURANCE

EARN HIGHEST POSSIBLE COMMISSION ON EDU/PEN Plans 897-6347 / 5916 ' 5902

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572089

Direct Maid Yaya Boy 8709283

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

Best maids 4146800/7111602

Best maids 4146800/7111602

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

GCM AGENCY
Good Caring Maids 535-9317 • 533-4534

Good Maid Yaya Driver 4384809

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IDEAL MAID YAYA 7427198

Maid Cook Yaya 895-7507

MAID DRIVER BOY 4107388

MAIDS W/NBI-REF. 9950535

MAIDS*MWIFE*TUTOR*BOY SEC*Driver9258904/4331431

NEED MAIDS?
781-9453 • 0917-369-17-49

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND
MAIDS
Call Josie 8737057•8737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya
CALL:9124701 • 9124706

ANGEL'S HANDS
w/ NBI&BI 4213263 / 4213874

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/ NBI & BI 421-3828

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313975

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-BAHAY 785-2911

LBahay7433225

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

OTHER PROVINCIAL

4Stry Bldg Binan Laguna Call 778-1541 Victoria

COMML/RESDL

MANDALUYONG

Grocery/Gourmet Shop 3M Comm'l Cmplx 0917-3955738

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS / BACOOR
2-4 Brs., 1-3 T&B, 2 Storey
P5,000.00 to Reserve / No Loan Req.
872-1340 • 872-3969

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

NICE HSE 4BR W/T&B San Miguel Village MAKATI DBO 8963927

Nr. C5/Fort 153m² 6279629

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS 300m² 2-Sty 5BR AM Sun P15M 6337601-03

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30sqm thru Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 0919-8994322

Teachers Vill 5br4tb2cg 6M 18Mabagin St 9132403 9132701

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Grocery/Gourmet Shop 3M Comm'l Condo 0917-3955738

PASIG

ALEXANDRA 250m² 3BRS P9.6M-Real P65T 6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

LGM Thaus 6.5M neg 202Floor Area 4TB Swimming Pool, Gazebo, Basketball Court, Tennis T4351779 3610855 9241647 09178410620 Text Message

RESIDENTIAL CONDO
RUSH SALE!
P5.8M 2BR 3T&B Maids Rm Parking BrandNew Great View 635-5199 • 0917-8118857

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PASIG PRIME
PROPERTY FOR SALE
418sqm. with 2-sty; 5-door apartment opposite Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig near McDonald's, Jollibee and Pasig Cathedral; P25,000/sqm.
Tel. 641-4589;0918-9422422

LOT

CABUYAO
MULTI-LAND III lots 100 sqm @P3000/sqm or hse & lot package call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166265

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

OWNER LEAVING
RUSH SALE!
MLA SOUTHWOOD
GOLF VILLA UNIT
Carmona, Cavite
Fully Furnished
Telelephone / Cable TV
beside Golf Fairway P8M
Call 0917-8152521

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt / Hse & Lot T450-7356/57

LOT

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS cor Lot AM Sun 514m² @P36T/m² 6337601-03

CAVITE

3BR T&C nr.DLSU,Dasma P1.1 Rush Terms Ok 09189877128

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS front park 4BR P45T/month T6337601-03

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MAKATI/ORTIGAS 1-2-3BR P17-80T/month T6337601-03

MANDALUYONG

2br WkWack 9127227 Emey

PASIG

Ortigas 3br Condo 25T 4121825

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8T Std Lady 9124428

BEDSPACE

2Ldy 2.8ea nr LaSalle 9530043

A/C nr LaSalle 2.5ea 9530043

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Pliamo 85/129/148/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

ORTIGAS/MAKATI grd/upper 40;90;150;280;1200m² P200-700/m² T6337601-03

MALATE OFFICES 526-8048

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

SALARY & BUSS 524-3197

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

Pvt 12str A1 150Tneg6568433

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Safari Terrano MU Trooper Lite-Hi Ace Space Gear Serena Vanette Elf Suzuki Canter etc. Trade in Financing w/ Warranty neg A1 9120647; 0917-8342020

BUSES/TRUCKS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Terrano MU Safari Lite-Hi Ace Trooper Space Gear Serena Vanette Elf Suzuki Canter etc. A1 with Warranty Trade-In Finance Call 9120647 ; 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

L300 ADV. 741-1356

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 3736519

1.5% CARLOAN 7880357

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8969464

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

COMPUTER

Computers 12 Units 4 Sale •898-2207 0917-8909151•

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

3 mos Labrador puppies. Sunshadow, Chuck & Kobe line, Pure, Heavy-boned, with PCCI papers and complete shots. call Johanna @ 823-3110 or 0917-6915193

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

Phil. Dog School
Trains w/ K9 Psychology
Call 721-3730

PRINTING EQUIPMENT

2C H/A 20x29 500T 09209072809

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUC PLANS 2528373

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7260687
7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

SALESMAN with Driver's License 4313975

MALE/FEMALE

BILLING & COLLCTN OFFCR 5271590 5876418

• DIRECT HIRE •
OFC MKTG STAFF/PERSONNEL 18-45 w/w/o exp 9121488 Cathy

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 589-9958 4043528 520-0730

★ CANADA VISA ★
IMMIGRANT STATUS
FREE ASSESSMENT, CONSULT & VIDEO SHOW 9364151 8175511 8944950

IMMEDIATE HIRING!
8 TELEMARKETERS, 30 FIELD AGTS. Salary + Commissions apply directly 9 am Tues. U-102 Zen Bldg. 8352 Mayapis cor. St. Paul Rd. San Antonio Vill., Makati
(02) 896-5566

JOB HIRING 09193352395 KC

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

NURSES MIDWIVES 509-9958 5212773 520-0730

•OFC MAKTG STAFF 20-45YO COL.GRAD/LVL W/ OR W/O EXP MS. MAYSEL 9352962•

Ofc Mktg Staff 09166535651MICA

OFC MKTG Stf 09200062187

PROJECT OFFICER WITH EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING FUNDRAISING PROJECTS AND WITH GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS FAX RESUME AT 9275148

Real Estate Dev't Co. needs strong salesperson, 35 years of age, with good English. Earn up to Php25,000 plus commissions. Fax resume to Anna-HRD 8929068

Wanted Male or Female
SALES REP.
Apply in person @ City&Land Megaplaza Unit 1014 A.D.B. Ave. cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City • 687-3544

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

Real Estate Seminar Review for Brokers Exams CEP Oct. 11,18,25 Nov.8,15 645-8693
Highest Passing Rate
0919-8104290 0917-9127665

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Be Millionaire in 1 yr We did it in 4 months Contact 0920-9124125

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531008 09178901851

LEYTE BZNS 09189051567

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

RTW/BLOUSES P28 727-4934

FRANCHISING

FOODCOURT CHAIN AVAILABLE: MEGAMALL, GALLERIA, SM MAKATI, SM CUBAO • 0916-6630023

TransCo launches Bantayos Pilot Project in Atimonan, Quezon

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (TransCo) has implemented a novel scheme which intends to foster a stronger sense of ownership in communities hosting transmission facilities by sharing the responsibility of transmitting power with these communities.

TransCo has identified Atimonan, Quezon as a pilot area for the implementation of the Bantayos Program which taps communities living near the transmission facilities to monitor and protect these structures from lawless elements in order to prevent power outages.

In return, TransCo will provide employment opportunities to members of the communities by hiring their services for cutting and clearing of trees and de-rusting and repainting of tower parts.

Likewise, TransCo will also offer the Free Lineman Training Course to interested youths in the area to provide them with the necessary skills needed for a career in the local electricity sector.

TransCo President Alan T. Ortiz said the program reinforces the TransCo's commitment to foster a stronger sense of ownership in communities hosting transmission facilities.

The pilot area hosts the Naga-Tayabas 500kV and the Gumaca-Kalayaan 230kV transmission lines which provide crucial transport capability to the heavily clustered power plants located in the Southern Luzon sub-grid.

TransCo recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government of Atimonan, represented by the respective barangay heads and witnessed by Mayor Florante M. Veranga.

The agreement covers a five-month contract to employ the services of people living in Barangays Malinao Ilaya, Magsaysay, and Malinao Ibaba, for right-of-way related activities.

TransCo will implement the pilot program for six months; after which it will be evaluated for possible nationwide implementation.

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn from the world's #1 gemological institute
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Gain professionalism with gems
From the world's leading authority

Colored Stones Diploma Program
starts November 24, 2003

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77
giathai@ksc15.th.com
Fax: (662) 236-9829
www.giathailand.com

INVITATION FOR RE-BID
ARMM SOCIAL FUND
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

October 7, 2003

The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.

The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following subproject:

Package 1	Project Code	.	SRI-P03-001
	Title	:	Center for Development Planning and Information Communication Technology Building
	Project Location	:	ARMM Compound, Cotabato City
Package 2	Project Code	:	SRI-P03-02
	Title	:	Passenger Terminal Building, Polloc Base Port
	Project Location	'	Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao

Interested eligible bidders and former bidders who have participated in the bidding of the above-mentioned subprojects may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City.

A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *PhP 3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each package starting October 13, 2003 The method of payment will be on cash basis only.

Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10.00 A.M. on November 5, 2003 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire (30) calendar days beyond bid validity

Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on October 21, 2003

The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel (062) 992-2084-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: ASF@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI – October 7, 2003)

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION / KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

A. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for

One-Year Freight Forwarding, Customs Brokerage and Inland Transportation Services

B. Prospective bidders must have at least three (3) years operational experience.

C. The following eligibility requirements in two copies duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement Department at 18th floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders.

1. SEC/DTI Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business Permit/License
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. Complete listing of partners or foreign agents worldwide
6. Copy of both local and International Forwarding and Brokerage licenses and accreditation, including the latest annual report submitted to respective associations
   List of clients (past & present) especially in the power plant or related industries, with the corresponding summary of all importations
8. List of company equipment and other assets
9. A comprehensive Service Plan on how to handle our shipments in the event of contract award

NOTE:

- DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK AND COUNTRY OF ORIGINS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMMERCIAL BID DOCUMENTS.
- ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D. Deadline for submission: October 15, 2003

E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

F. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical and financial criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the company

G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Erwin Patrick C. Candare, Procurement Officer, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 848-02-31 local (164) or send fax to 848-00-13 to 14

(Sgd.) JAE PYO CHOI
General Manager
Administration Group

(PDI – September 30 and October 7, 2003)

NFA-FDC to conduct training-workshop on peanut processing

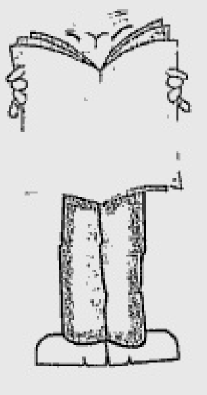
A TWO-DAY training-workshop on the Processing of Roasted Peanuts and Peanut Sauces will be conducted by the National Food Authority-Food Development Center (FDC). This will be held on Oct. 15 and 16 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The said training-workshop aims to increase awareness on the part of peanut processors on the requirements of modern peanut products processing.

A training-workshop fee of P2,800 will be charged per participant. This is inclusive of the training manual and meals.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Amy S. Bautista at 838-4014 to 16, 8384478, 8384561 or 838-4601 or send E-mail at infofdc@pacific.net.ph.

Where you find the best.



JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808
loc. 514, 516
899-4425
897-2535
897-8425
(Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578
811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213
527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219
635-0220

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the Single Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM)/Wildcat Class Gunboats (ROK)** of the Philippine Navy, which shall be done in the Republic of Korea (ROK). It has an approved budget of **Two Hundred and Eighty-eight Million Pesos (Php 288,000,000.00)**, chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from ROK shipbuilding/ship repair companies and other such companies accredited by the ROK government to do the upgrade project thereat shall be entertained.

The bid documents shall be available for issuance starting **October 7, 2003 until October 17, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of a registration fee amounting to **Twenty-eight Thousand and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 28,800.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day of the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 17, 2003 at 3:00 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM gunboats at the ROK Navy Shipyard, Chin Hae Naval Base in Busan, ROK upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the bids, and upon prior request from the Camp Commander of Chin Hae Naval Base.

The deadline for submission of bid envelopes is on **October 31, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **9:15 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(Originally Signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice- Chairman, BAC

(PDI – October 7 & 14, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM)/Wildcat Class Gunboats (in-country)** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Two Hundred and Eighty-eight Million Pesos (Php 288,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from accredited Marina shipbuilding/ship repair companies shall be entertained.

The 1st stage bid documents shall be available for issuance starting **October 6, 2003 until October 16, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of **Twenty-eight Thousand and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 28,800.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of the first publication until the day of the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 16, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM gunboats at the Naval Shipyard, Fort San Felipe, Naval Base Cavite, Cavite City upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of 1st stage envelopes is on **October 30, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **9:15 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all the bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of the bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(Originally Signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice- Chairman, BAC

(PDI – October 7 & 14, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines - Department of Labor
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Technical Education and Skills Development Project
TESDA Complex, Fort Bonifacio, East Service Road
South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR BIDS

September 28, 2003
ADB Loan No. 1750-PHI
OPEC Loan No. 841 P

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-financed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the following 3 Centers of Technical Excellence (CenTexes):

Institution Per Region	Location
Region X	
1. Regional Training Center - Iligan City	Maria Cristina, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte
CARAGA Region	
1. Agusan del Sur School of Arts and Trades (ASSAT)	Government Center, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur
2. Northern Mindanao School of Fisheries (NMSF)	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte

2. Bidding is open to all bidders from source countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
3. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the CENTEXes ("the Works") in the aforesaid institutions.
4. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, beginning **September 29, 2003** at the Office of the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC), between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday, at the following TESDA Regional Offices:

Region	Location/ Mailing Address	Facsimile No.	Telephone No.
X	Jupiter St., Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City	(8822) 721-943	(88) 857-1665
CARAGA	Llido Bldg., R. Ochoa Ave., Butuan City	(085) 815-7324	(085) 341-5220/ 225-5541

5. A complete set of bidding documents per CENTEX may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the concerned office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) per bid documents at the Regional Cashier's Office.
6. The RBACs shall conduct their respective Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 am of **October 13, 2003**, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a security of 1.00% of the total bid price, and must be delivered at the concerned Office of the RBAC at or before 10:00 am on **October 29, 2003**. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

(Sgd.) **DR. SANTIAGO A. YABUT**
Deputy Director General for
TVET Cluster
Officer-in-Charge, TESDA

(PDI--Oct. 1 & 7, 2003)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

INVITATION FOR BID
(AMENDED)
ARMM SOCIAL FUND
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

October 7, 2003

The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.

2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the hereunder subproject:

Package 3, Project Code	SRI-PO4-001 Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sulu Provincial Hospital
Project Location	Jolo, Sulu

3. Interested eligible bidders who have participated in the bidding of the above-mentioned subproject may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City
4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundble fee of PhP 3,500.00 or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency starting October 13, 2003. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on November 05, 2003 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire (30) calendar days beyond bid validity.
6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on October 21, 2003.

The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: ASF@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI – October 7, 2003)

JOBMarket ONLINE VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

DIGITIZING THE SME

PHILIPPINE INTERNET COMMERCE SOCIETY
PICS Presents

The 2nd NATIONAL E-COMMERCE CONGRESS AND EXHIBIT
Theme: 'Strengthening SME Competitiveness through IT and E-Commerce'
December 2 – 4, 2003
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)
Pasay City, Philippines

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
[illegible]

EXHIBIT PROFILE:
[illegible]

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE:
Who Should Attend:
[illegible]

[illegible]

Pacific Internet
BancNet

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON
GOOD GOVERNMENT
IRC BUILDING # 82 EDSA
MANDALUYONG CITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, Invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "CHRISTMAS BAZAAR" Trade Exhibit from November 15, 2003 to January 15, 2004.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting October 7, 2003. For inquiries, please contact Sonny dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before October 15, 2003, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on October 20, 2003 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) RENOR O. DAUAG
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI – October 7, 8 & 9, 2003)

OBITUARIES

FELICIDAD ANTIPORDA DIÑOSO

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 5, 2003
at the age of 67.

Her husband **Antonio**; children and in-law **Sheila, Maricar, Carlo** and **Marylyn, Iris** and **Brian**; grandchildren **M-Psylocke** and **Lexine**; brothers **Lorenzo, Meliton** (†), **Rizalino** (†) and **Mayon** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. She will be laid to rest at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Sunday, October 12, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.

Our Dearly Beloved

RAMON JOSE SALAZAR LEYRAN

May 1, 1968-October 4, 2003

His loving parents **Ramon & Marina**; brothers & sisters **Rev. Fr. Manny, Eugene, Weena, Tet, Mona, Ninoy, Anna**;, brothers-in-law **Dindo & Jeffrey**; sister-in-law **Dada**; nephews **Diboy & Hugo**; nieces **Bea & CJ**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Acacia Chapel, La Funeraria Paz Sucat, (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, 1:30 p.m. at the Cremation Chapel, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City. Cremation immediately follows.

JOB Market

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

Resumé Box

We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig,
Metro Manila, 1632
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

With faith in the resurrection
the **De La Salle Brothers of the Philippine District**

announce the death of

BROTHER GREGORY REFUERZO FSC

(Innocencio Refuerzo)

Born in Santa Catalina, Ilocos Sur on 20 January 1930 and died at the DLSU-Medical Center, Dasmariñas, Cavite on 05 October 2003. He took his holy habit on 17 May 1957. He pronounced his First Vows on 18 May 1958 and professed his Perpetual Vows on 02 April 1963.

Tour of Ministry

Year	Position held	School/Community
1957-1959	Scholastic	Scholasticate, De La Salle College-Manila
1959-1960	Teacher	La Salle Green Hills (Mandaluyong)
1960-1967	Teacher	De la Salle College-Manila
1967-1972	Teacher	De La Salle Lipa
1972-1981	Administrator/Teacher/Brothers' Community Director	St. Joseph's High School (Bacolod)
1981-1983	Sub-Director	La Salle Novitiate (Lipa)
1983-1987	Teacher/Finance Officer/Brothers' Community Director	De La Salle Lipa
1987-1992	Finance Officer	La Salle Academy (Iligan)
1992-1993	Finance Officer	St. Joseph's High School (Bacolod)
1993-1994	Finance Officer	De La Salle Lipa
1994-1998	Finance Officer	ICC-La Salle (Ozamiz)
1998-1999	Finance Officer	La Salle Academy (Iligan)
1999-2002	Formation Staff	La Salle Novitiate (Lipa)
2002-2003	Administrative Staff	De La Salle Lipa

His remains now lie in state at the De La Salle Brothers' Memorial Cloister, La Salle Novitiate, Lipa City. The Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Wednesday, 08 October 2003 at 9 o'clock in the morning. Interment will follow. Letters of condolences to his surviving relatives may be sent through the La Salle Provincialate, La Salle Green Hills, 343 Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City or Telefax: 721-5049; email: fsc@lsgh.edu.ph

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the De La Salle Brothers, Inc. (Br. Gregory Refuerzo FSC Endowment Fund).

---

*"Only your best is good enough
for your mission."*
– General Atienza

In Loving Memory
On the 37th Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Wednesday, October 8, 2003 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp. Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 2:30 p.m., after which the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies will be held. Holy Mass will also be offered at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 8:00 a.m. and at military chapels throughout the country.

We invite you to also remember his wife **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA** who died on June 22, 1995.

Julia Barcelon - Jimeno

Born: October 7, 1913
Peacefully joined her creator
on October 3, 2003.

Her loving husband **Honesto A. Jimeno** (†); children and spouses: **Angie & David, Ver & Olymp, Totoy & Becky, Belen & Ernie, Tita, Nick & Linda, Yeyet** (†), **Jess & Baby, Toting & Choy, Wilma**; grandchildren, **Cliff & Carrie, Tess; Arlene & Melfred, Oliver & Patty; Efey, Bingbong & Jay-Jay; Mykho; Laarni, Karen, Nikki & Paolo; Natasha, Kyle & Bianca; Victor, Pie & Stefanie**; great grandchildren; **Keith & Gracie, Matthew & Adie**; sisters, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco Memorial Chapel, Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City on October 8, 2003 after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

LUZ CELIS MACAPANPAN

Orthodontist, Educator, Friend

Peacefully joined her Creator on 4 October 2003
at the age of 79.

Her brothers and sisters **Inez** (†), **Martin** and **Erondina**, **Adela** (†) and **Alejandro** (†), **Jose** (†) and **Paz**, **Hernan** and **Anita**, **Lino** (†) and **Lourdes** (†) and **Gwen** (†); nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces and friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday October 8, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church. Interment will follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

---

*"Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels
sing thee to thy rest."* — **From Hamlet**

Atty. Carlos Dona Montemayor, Sr.

Of Alaminos, Pangasinan
and Novaliches, Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Crator on October 5, 2003
at the age of 68.

His devoted wife **Ofelia Alcantara-Montemayor**, his children **Carla**, **Tina & Rey Wong**, **Jonjon** and **Connie**, grandchild **Isabela**, brothers and sisters-in-law **Atty. Wilfredo Alcantara** (†), **Atty. Reynaldo Alcantara** (†), **Dr. & Mrs. Paul & Velia Katner**, **Dr. Venancio Alcantara**, **Rodolfo Alcantara** (†) and **Drs. Fe & Rolando Andico**, give thanks for the love and joy he brought into their lives. We ask his friends & relatives to remember him in their prayers.

He lies in state at the Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches Proper, Quezon City.

Interment will follow the Holy Mass on October 8, Wednesday, 10 am at Serenity Memorial Park, Congress Rd., Barrio Bagombong, Novaliches, Caloocan City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of our dearly beloved

INOCENCIA LOZADA CASTILLO

July 28, 1911 – September 14, 2003

wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends who spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

NATALIA DE LAS ALAS-PANGANIBAN

of Indang, Cavite

Joined our heavenly God on
October 5, 2003 at the age of 84.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, brother, nieces, nephews and their spouses.

Her body lies in state at the
old family residence at:
Mabini Street
Indang, Cavite

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, 2:00 p.m., at the Indang Catholic Cemetery.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

REAL ESTATE

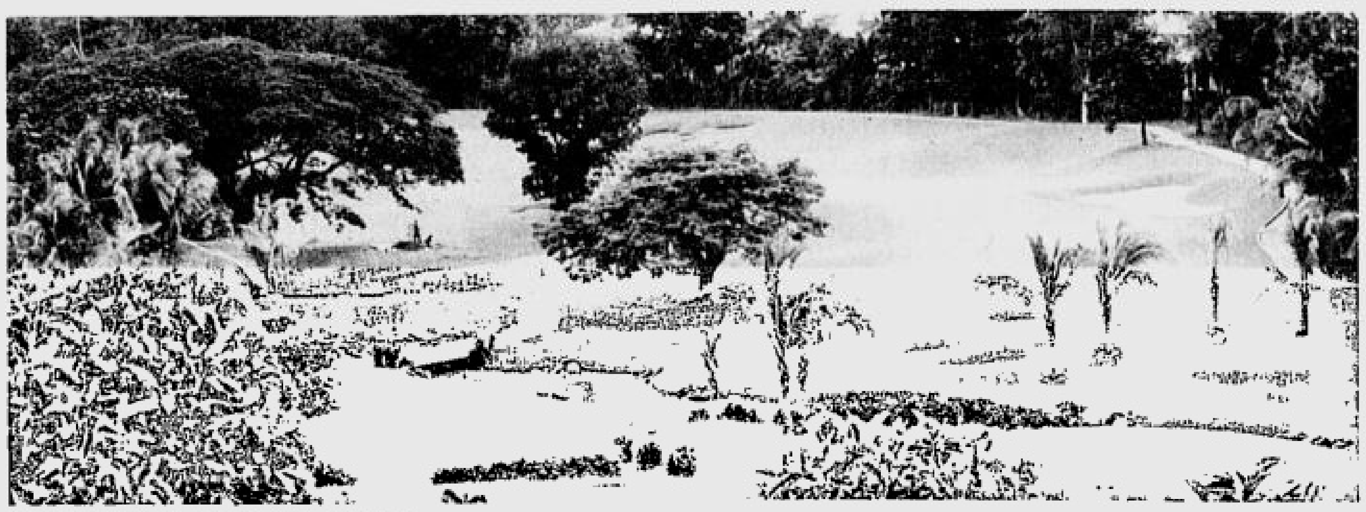
E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Sanchez still fighting a lonely battle

Defensor: It's a question of money

By Jerry Esplanada



CAPITOL Hills Golf and Country Club

SPECIAL REPORT

(Last of two parts)

MANUEL "Manoling" Sanchez is "frustrated, desperate and angry."

"But I'm not giving up," Sanchez, former vice chair of the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club Inc. board, has told the INQUIRER.

Sanchez also furnished this paper a copy of his "open letter" to President Macapagal-Arroyo where he lamented that "for the last six years, I have been fighting a lonely battle using every avenue the legal process (has afforded) me."

"(But) nothing happened," he complained.

Sanchez was referring to the various cases he had filed against officials of Capitol, where he is a minority stockholder, and several government agencies whom he accused of taking part in the Ayala Hillside Estates land development project, which he prefers to call a "multibillion-peso scam."

He denounced the 60-40 deal forged earlier by the real estate giant and the Quezon City-based golf club as *"katarantaduhan"* (foolishness).

"The judicial system grinds in such a slow way that gives no comfort to litigants and only result(s) in frustration and desperation. This is common knowledge," Sanchez told the President.

A question of money

When interviewed, Sanchez indicated he was engaged in a crusade against corruption.

But he also confided his other motive: *"Suklian ako ng tamang sukli."*

Asked what he meant by that, Sanchez said, *"kung anong halaga ng propriedad ng* corporation divided by the number of shares."

He said he would lose his legal personality if he sold his club shares. "(So) the only way is to buy my (24) shares. *Ang kaso ang tawad nila 10 percent lang yata ng halaga. 'Di pwede 'yon,"* according to Sanchez.

Reports reaching the club said Sanchez wanted to sell his shares for "P1 million per share," disclosed lawyer Matias Defensor, Capitol corporate secretary.

"The bottomline...it's a question of money. It seems that way," Defensor said.

Sanchez had earlier brought his "problem" to some of his "friends," like former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and former justice secretary Hernando Perez to no avail.

Singson, in a phone interview, said "it's true. One time he told me about his problem in the club." He did not say why he did not help Sanchez.

Singson described Sanchez as a "high-roller in Las Vegas (casinos)." He also admitted they were both "mahjong pals" of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sanchez also complained that his former counsel, Vic Fernandez, had "been useless to me" since the lawyer's appointment as Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

Sanchez noted the land development deal between Capitol and Ayala Land "may be considered an intracorporate matter, but the perpetration of this (alleged) scam (was) imbued with public interest because every step of the way the questionable participation of several government agencies and officials (was) glaring."

Dropping names

Sanchez also said he had resorted to citing the "disturbing insinuations," allegedly "for fear that perhaps without (the President's) knowledge, some quarters are using their association with you to achieve their evil ends."

In another fact sheet furnished the INQUIRER, he claimed the names of the President and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo were "being used by unscrupulous persons to have a direct or indirect participation in this scam."

According to Sanchez, the following names were also being dropped by the same people whom he did not name:

- Lawyer Pancho Villaraza, Ms Macapagal's private counsel
- Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo
- Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong
- Land Registration Authority head Benedicto Ulep
- Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia Bautista and Commissioners Joselia Poblador and Fe Gloria
- Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board members Romulo Fabul, Teresita Desierto and Francisco Dagnalan, director Jesse Obligacion and legal officer Dunstan San Vicente
- Lawyer Jojo Quilala of the Register of Deeds.

Corruption in gov't

Sanchez said the deal between Capitol and Ayala Land was not just a private transaction.

When interviewed, he partly blamed "corruption in government" for his troubles.

"Because you have to get the permits, licenses and everything. And in the process you will see how the officials operate, how corrupt they are," he claimed.

The alleged scam is "ongoing," he said as he also assailed the two firms for pushing through with the project although their memorandum of agreement was "still under question in court."

In a civil case filed on July 1, 2002, Sanchez asked the Quezon City RTC's Branch 93 to nullify the deal, approved on April 23, 2002 during the club's annual stockholders meeting.

But Defensor explained they did not violate any law.

"If you have a project like this, are you going to listen to a nuisance person?" he asked. "Say you are marrying a girl but somebody else is suing you, accusing you that you're already married. But it's not true, so are you going to postpone the wedding simply because of that accusation?"

Defensor assailed Sanchez for his attempt to implicate his son, Michael. "Yes, I'm aware of his charges, even those against the First Gentleman, against everybody," the lawyer said.

In his letter to the President, Sanchez also warned of "more explosive exposé(s) to come" with a "probable tie-up of this land scam (with) the coming election (in) 2004."

Various forums

Thomas Mirasol, Ayala Land senior division manager, noted that Sanchez had "brought his allegations to various forums."

Mirasol said they "simply responded to all his charges and fortunately and not unexpectedly all these forums have basically not seen any merit on what he's been saying."

Sanchez "keeps doing it and we keep responding the way we have in the past," according to Mirasol.

Malaya columnist Ducky Paredes, a club stockholder, wrote they "could have had this new golf course and the land in Rodriguez three years ago if only Manoling Sanchez did not exist."

Mirasol said, "generally, it's more a problem for Capitol. But in his attempts to make life difficult for the club, he tries to get us involved. That seems to be his strategy. I may be wrong about it but that seems to be the way he's operating."

Examination of credibility

Ayala Land insiders furnished this reporter a fact sheet where they called for an "examination of the credibility" of Sanchez before jumping on the case.

They also referred to a report of the late Star columnist Art Borjal who devoted a column to how Sanchez allegedly tried to milk the government of tens of millions of pesos by overpricing land intended for the Marikina-Infanta Road project.

Borjal called it a "classic case in the files of DPWH."

"(Sanchez's) scheme was simple. With the apparent cooperation of the Rizal provincial assessor at the time, he priced the land he purchased for P7.30 per square meter at a whopping P3,000 per sq. m. The DPWH blew the whistle on Sanchez but he apparently got scot free," said the fact sheet.

But the case was revived recently in the House of Representatives.

Alleged overpricing

Party-list Representatives Emmanuel Joel Villanueva and Kim Bernardo-Lokin (Citizens' Battle Against Corruption or Cibac) had filed Resolution 950, calling for an inquiry by the chamber's oversight and public works and highways panels into the alleged overpricing of the 65,417-sq.-m. property in barangay San Isidro, Antipolo, Rizal.

The measure said "the discrepancy in the original appraised value and the actual purchase value could represent an overpricing of more than P200 million which is a considerable drain on government resources."

"This possible case of overpricing could represent a possible case of plunder," according to HR 950.

Sanchez dismissed the allegations against him as "lies."

In his letter to the President, Sanchez also warned of "more explosive exposé(s) to come," including some on a "probable tie-up of this land scam with the 2004 election." He did not provide other details.

When interviewed, Sanchez denied claims he was engaged in a proxy war, stressing "Erap is not involved here. It's my family's interests at stake."

Sanchez said his friendship with the deposed leader had "no bearing on the issues involved."

3-story mall opens in Lucena City

By Charles E. Buban

LAST month brought a significant milestone for residents of Lucena City in Quezon province as developer Pacific Mall Corp. opened its latest project in that city some 135 km south of Manila.

PMC is known for its other mall projects like the Pacific Mall Legazpi in Albay.

"This city is fast becoming the commercial center of the region as big projects such as the Pacific Mall Lucena will invite more developments here," said city mayor Ramon Talaga Jr.

Three floors

Pacific Mall Lucena is a three-story mall (plus another five floors for its adjacent anchor store) with a gross floor area of 48,000 sq. m.

It features varied selection of boutiques and retail shops, wide array of restaurants, café bars and fast-food chains, four state-of-the-art cinemas, family amusement arcade, food court and thematic cluster stall lane.

There's also a Shoppers' Lane at the third level where bargain hunters can haggle for the lowest price, a unique feature in this type of commercial center.

Premier destination

Pacific Mall Lucena follows the success of Pacific Mall Legazpi and is envisioned to be the premier shopping, dining, and entertainment destination in Quezon province.

On top of it, the mall houses Metro Lucena, Gaisano's latest in its chain of stores in the Visayas and Southern Luzon, which will act as the anchor department store and supermarket of Pacific Mall.

"Pacific Mall Lucena showcases exciting features and facilities worth exploring and all add up to what modern shopping haven should be," described Landco Pacific Corp. VP Arlene Magtibay.

Future commercial park

This close to a billion-peso mall will become the centerpiece of the future Lucena Commercial Park, a 5.3-hectare commercial business district envisioned to be the city's premier business and commercial destination fully equipped with ultramodern amenities.

"This mall has already generated thousands of jobs here and with the further development of the area, this city will truly serve as a 'catchment area' for all types of development," the mayor said.

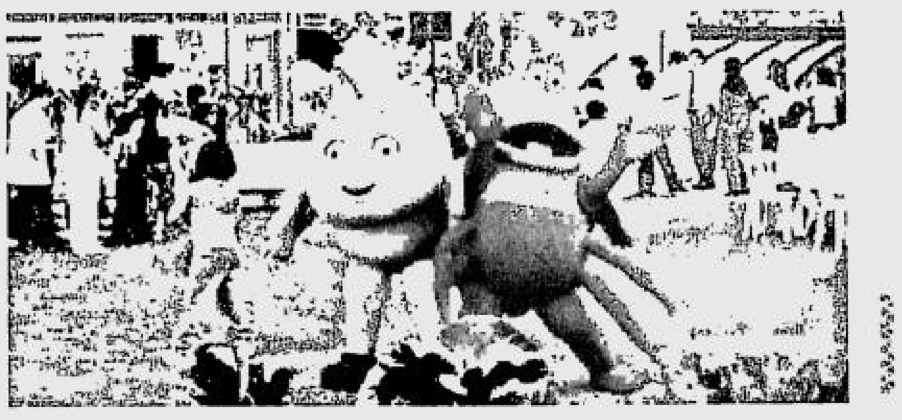
The mayor explained that the city attracts people coming from other Quezon towns, Batangas, Marinduque and Romblon.

Joint venture

LPC, one of the country's most innovative real estate developers involved in various commercial center developments, and high-end resort, subdivision and memorial projects located in key areas outside Metro Manila teamed up with Vicsal Development Corp. to form PMC, the mall's developer.

VDC is one of the leading supermarket and department store operators in the Visayas famous for its Metro chain of stores in Cebu City, Mandaue, Colon and Legaspi City.

FAÇADE of Pacific Mall Lucena



MASCOTS at Bay Gardens

Family day turnover rites at Bay Gardens

THE SEPT. 14 turnover of Federal Land's Anchor Bay tower at Bay Gardens was a huge success. A well-attended affair comprised of new home buyers and residents of Bay Gardens Condominiums, the activity featured a family style get-together with "Finding Nemo" as the theme for the day.

A crowd of about 250 people gathered at the podium level of the newly completed tower that features a resort-style swimming pool, a 15-meter indoor heated lapping pool, a basketball half court and badminton court, spacious playground for kids and other first-class amenities like a full-service health and fitness gym, indoor kiddie play room and multipurpose-function room.

Food carts serving a variety of specialty snacks and beverages surrounded the area, and entertainers such as jugglers, a yoyo champ and Disney Under the Sea mascots were all abound. Afternoon activities included face painting, kiddie games and prizes, an on-the-spot souvenir photo for each guest and a game of dice to commemorate the Mooncake Festival. A puppet show and magician or illusionist were the final highlights of the afternoon revelry.

3-tower dev't

Bay Gardens Condominiums is a three-tower development located within the master-planned community called Metropolitan Park. It is the newest city on the rise by the Manila Bay, bounded by Buendia Avenue, Roxas Boulevard, Edsa Extension and the new Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Nearby is Le Pavillon, an event "tent" venue that hosts a variety of private and public activities; a Petron Mega Complex featuring eateries like Pancake House, Chowking, Subway and Petron's Treats; the Toyota Manila Bay showroom; a new Metrobank branch and the soon to open leisure and entertainment complex—The Blue Wave.

Wide open space

An ideal residential community to raise your family, Bay Gardens' main selling feature is its wide open space. A place to live and breathe while still living within the city. Homeowners are treated to a daily dose of resort-style living—amenities comparable to five-star hotels, gardens with lush tropical foliage, safe and secure surroundings and of course, one can't miss, the bay breeze and beautiful sunsets that Manila Bay is known for.

With easy access to the business districts of Makati and Manila, and likewise to the domestic and international airports and Coastal Road, Bay Gardens Condominiums is an ideal home investment. Already, a brisk sales pace has been achieved for all three towers, as investment opportunities are expected to rise even further, with the development of SM's newest Mall of Asia, and the opening of another Price Smart branch on Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Open for viewing

Bay Gardens showrooms are located within Metropolitan Park, and is open for viewing on a daily basis from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. including weekends and holidays.

Bay Gardens is another quality development of Federal Land Inc., a member of the Metrobank Group of Companies.

Bank's home suite loan at 6% yearly

EAST West Banking Corp. extends its arms to help its clients secure their own house and lot through Home Suite Loan, a program which offers five different consumer loans. Owning a dream house is made easier with Home Suite Loan's ongoing special interest rate of 6 percent per annum which is fixed for one year (subject to 10-percent VAT).

East West bank reduced its rate from 11.365 to 6 percent, the lowest housing loan interest rate extended to consumers. This special loan is applicable to all Home Suite Loan programs with a minimum amount of P1 million.

For East West clients who want to invest their money on a long-term property but are still undecided on whether they want to put up their own house or not, the Home Suite Loan's LotAcquire best suits them. It allows one to purchase a residential property payable in 10 years.

For individuals or couples who want to make a good start, Home Suite Loan's HomeAcquire allows them to purchase a house and lot or even a townhouse or a condomium unit to be used as primary residence.

HomeConstruct can help you put the wood, nails and cement together for you to sooner enjoy the proverbial roof over your heads the way you want it.

Another option is the HomeImprove program, which is ideal for families demanding more space and improvements on their homes. The HomeFlex program enables one to turn real estate assets into cash for startup business expansion, travel and other investment opportunities.

East West Bank also offers the unique Customer Protect Financing Scheme that provides a predetermined amortization structure for the entire term of the loan to be able to protect clients from interest rate fluctuations and other economic turbulence which is out of the bank's control.

'Survivor' firm named developer of the year

By Tessa R. Salazar

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Honoring the "survivors" in real estate inspires developers to propel economic growth forward.

President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the 4,000-member Chamber of Real Estate Developers at the Creba-Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council National Convention last Saturday at the Holiday Inn, Clark Field, Pampanga, to bestow upon 31-year-old Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. the title "developer of the year."

Creba officers said the award recognizes Sta. Lucia Realty for its resiliency as much as its achievements.

At a time when the economy is not that strong, Filipino developers have been looking for heroes to inspire them to move on, Creba officers added.

"To rally the economy, you should have samples of success. We should not be always looking for the negative," stressed Pedro C. Tario, Creba presidential adviser.

'Survival' techniques

Sta. Lucia, for its part, credits its "survival" techniques in times of uncertainty by not acquiring massive properties and only participating in joint-venture agreements with landowners.

Most of its cash outlays are focused on land development instead of purchases. Its venture into malls (Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, for example) and retailing also helped it through crises. The retail industry, in particular, has declined only marginally compared to the real estate sector.

According to the Creba selection committee, the developer of the year award is not necessarily given annually. There have been years when the committee had not seen any substantial achievements in the sector, and thus, would not hand out the award.

The performances of candidates for the award are reviewed by a committee of directors. The committee scrutinizes the status of development projects, the number of acquired lands, and the management styles used to attain financial and technical objectives. Sta. Lucia was able to form joint ventures (JVs) with prominent companies such as Jaka, Alsons Land Corp., Coyiuto-Tan, the Philippine Racing Club, Landco Inc. and the Manila Jockey Club.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Creba president Jun Dulalia, presents the Creba Developer of the Year award to Sta. Lucia Realty and Dev't Inc. represented by its president Exequiel Robles.

Its largest JV involved Alsons Land and the 700-hectare Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estate.

Flexible

Sta. Lucia is even "flexible" enough to partner even with competitors such as Fil-Estate and Atlanta Land, manifested in the Caliraya Springs tripartite JV. Sta. Lucia's partnership with Landco, for example, had produced Lakewood City in Cabanatuan; Woodside in Urdaneta, Pangasinan; and the Pacific Heights in Cebu.

"Unlike established and prestigious developers like Ayala Land, Sta. Lucia Realty is an example of a small developer that has grown big," said Tario. Sta. Lucia now has an estimated 9,000 hectares in land in various stages of development.

Sta. Lucia has developed 137 subdivisions, 11 championship-quality golf courses, seven first-rate golf communities, five sports and country club estates and one grand mall.

Much of its success has been attributed primarily to Exequiel D. Robles, Sta. Lucia Realty president and chief executive officer.

"He sees something in the land, we don't," said Merci Lim, Sta. Lucia marketing services manager.

Growth in crisis

In spite of the economic crisis in 1997, when more than 50 percent of developers had been severely affected, Sta. Lucia was still able to come out in the black.

"The firm has adjusted to various management crises, and the vision remains stable," said Florentino Dulalia Jr, Creba national president.

Creba itself had not been spared from the economic doldrums. From 4,500 members nationwide during the "heydays" of real estate from 1993 to 1995, membership had been reduced to almost half during the crisis. Now, the organization is back on track.

About 70 percent of the Creba members are developers, the rest are professionals involved in real estate, such as brokers, urban planners, architects, builders and suppliers. Past awardees include the Villar Group of Companies, Filinvest and Megaworld.

Value-type property

Sta. Lucia projects are considered value-type property in the medium- to high-range, contributing significantly to urban development.

Exequiel D. Robles, Sta. Lucia Realty president and chief executive officer, is its second-generation leader. He was then 19 when he had to assume the company's executive vice presidency.

Exequiel succeeded his father Buenaventura and aunt Marcella Robles Santos who founded Buen-mar Realty. Buenmar bought and sold pieces of property, particularly raw land. In 1972, they incorporated Buenmar and changed the name to Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc.

Planning the retirement home

By Alexis A. Acacio

WE are in our 60s and we are planning our retirement home. All of our children have their own families and we intend to live in our retirement home all by ourselves. We have been looking at available pieces of property for sale and we feel that our needs may not be served by such property. Can you give us advice on the things that we should consider in planning or buying a retirement home?

BUILDING DREAMS

Yes, planning a retirement home is different from planning a home for a growing family. The needs of retirees are different from the needs of a growing family. This short note is for older men and women, both healthy and frail, may it help you in planning your retirement home.

The features of your retirement home would include:

Accessibility features

The features of a retirement home incorporate a design concept of easy accessibility which enhance the occupants' ability to live comfortably, safely and independently even as they age. As one gets older, the physical ability to access living spaces in one's home becomes increasingly more difficult.

If a person is in a wheelchair, a design feature in the home should include a no-step entry port that is wide enough to accommodate one. Your home designer knows the design rules and regulations regarding access for the disabled. Notice new buildings these days and the entry access are friendly even to people with disabilities.

Doors can also have leveled handles instead of the conventional round ones. This is most helpful for people with dexterity and grip problems.

Kitchen features

It is important to properly assess the use of good natural and task lighting to aid aging people with decreased vision. For people on a wheelchair, kitchen and work area countertops can be constructed at various heights for better workability.

Upper wall cabinets can also be set a few inches lower than the standard height so that getting things can be easier for older people. Bright-colored cabinet doors allow for easy identification of the location and position of the cabinets. If you have a covered cabinet door, you might have to open all doors to let you find out what you are looking for and glass-covered doors offer the advantage of being able to see what is inside the cabinet.

The base cabinets of kitchen systems should have an organizer and roll out trays to prevent the users from bending over too much. Older people have less flexible backs and bending too often to get things under the kitchen counter can cause a lot of back stress on them.

Bathroom features

A space for a wheel chair under the lavatory is convenient. It is a must that door widths in bathrooms can accommodate a wheelchair and the flooring slopes should not be too abrupt. Floor tiles should be the nonslip type for added safety. It is wise to place a rubber mat over tiled surfaces that usually get wet.

Flooring features

A nonslip floor is a must for safety. Carpets are perfect for older occupants since the surfaces offer a lot of grip. The risk of getting hurt is expected to be less if you fall into a carpet floor rather than fall over a concrete tiled floor. The only problem with carpet floors is the high degree of maintenance that is required of them.

A common technique that designers and builders do is to change the color of the floor (tile, wood or carpet) whenever a change in surface level is experienced. This makes it easy for people with impaired vision to realize the change in step or elevation.

Main door entry features

For persons living alone, the main door should have a small window that is large enough for you to be able to see visitors and at the same time small enough that no intruder can get through.

Automatic lights with motion sensors are a sure help in detecting any visitor or movement within your premises. You may want to consult with security system suppliers on how you may be able to protect your home.

House layout

If you are still considering a two-story house since you feel that you can still climb up the stairs, make sure that you have a room that can be converted into a master bedroom in the first floor.

There will come a time that you would now prefer to stay in the first floor than the second floor.

Designing for grandchildren

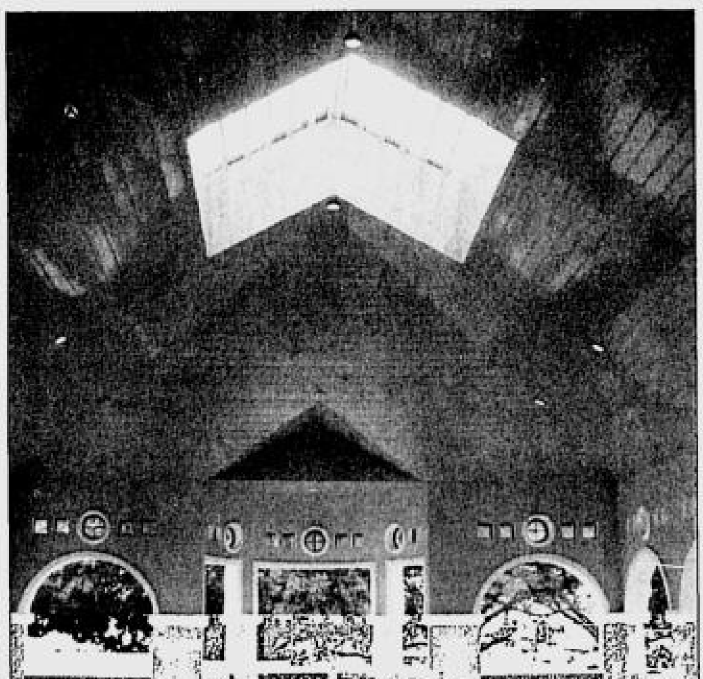
Remember that your grandchildren will frequently visit you and your home should not just be retiree friendly but also grandchildren friendly. Stair and balcony railing should be well designed to ensure that small children do not climb them.

If you still have a swimming pool, make sure that it is secured or at least have a pool cover to protect unattended children.

Safe neighborhood

Many retirees start by choosing an area that is safe for them to live in. Safety for them includes access for help, good neighbors, a park that is relatively flat and nonslippery, or simply living in an area where their daughters and sons also live.

Live in one that you can envision yourself to be happy and secure.



PRODUCT INNOVATION

CPAC Monier Philippines Inc. recently introduced its latest innovation, the CPAC Monier roof lights, in the local construction market. The roof lights provide architects and builders a wider range in their designs as shown in the clubhouse of Bloomfields subdivision, a project of Robinsons Land in Fairview, Quezon City. A joint venture between Lafarge of France and Siam Cement Group of Thailand, CMPI is the manufacturer and distributor of industry leader CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles in the Philippines.

Laguna Technopark attractions boosted by 2 new interchanges

THE GROWING reputation of the Biñan-Sta. Rosa area in Laguna as a superior manufacturing location will further be enhanced in the very near future with the opening of two more access routes from the industrial sites in the area to the South Luzon Expressway (Slex).

Laguna Technopark Inc. president Marivic Añonuevo said the most well established industrial park in this premier manufacturing center, LTI has been closely monitoring initiatives which will allow locators in the area access to a total of three interchanges on the Slex.

Access to 3 interchanges

Local officials have stated that within the year a spine road between Sta. Rosa and Mamplasan is expected for completion giving LTI manufacturers the option to use the Mamplasan exit in addition to the current Sta. Rosa interchange. They are also anticipating that the Malilit interchange which connects to the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road will open at about the same period.

"The Biñan-Sta. Rosa area will be the only manufacturing center along the Southern Luzon Expressway to have access to three interchanges," Añonuevo observed.

New phase

In anticipation of these developments, Laguna Technopark, which hosts Honda, Isuzu as well as Henkel and other electronics and IT firms, recently opened a new phase to accommodate other manufacturers seeking a convenient and ideal location. Its facilities include highway-grade concrete roads, digital communication facilities and a centralized sewerage system. In addition, it is conveniently accessible to both the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and two international seaports of Metro Manila and Batangas.

Transport experts have commented that Biñan-Sta. Rosa's quick access to two other interchanges will reinforce its rapid urbanization and increase the attractions of LTI's new phase. LTI's other attractions include its easy access to the Sta. Rosa population of about one million in the area, including a sizable student sector. The Sta. Rosa-Biñan area has been a favored area for migration because of the availability of 250,000 jobs.

A transport study comments: "A good resident, employment and education base are the necessary ingredients for urbanization. Sta. Rosa has all these and is likely to develop into a dynamic city perhaps rivaling Sta. Cruz and Calamba as an economic center."

Unique attribute

The study further notes the unique attribute of manufacturing sites like Laguna Technopark in Sta. Rosa is that it is roughly midway between the market of Manila and the employment base of Laguna and Batangas. It thus takes advantage of reasonable land prices and the ready availability of a skilled and educated labor force, which will be fully appreciated by the manufacturers who will locate to LTI's new phase.

LTI is a joint undertaking of Ayala Land Inc., Mitsubishi Corp. and JFE Steel Corp., formerly Kawasaki Steel Corp. Ayala Land is the largest property developer in the Philippines while Mitsubishi is a global trading firm. JFE is one of Japan's largest integrated steel manufacturers.

Super mall to rise in Imus

BUOYED by its success in its first mall venture in Bacoor, Cavite, Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp.—the fastest growing real estate company in the country—is putting up a much bigger FRC Super Mall in Imus.

With construction works at full speed, the super mall will be done much ahead of schedule, says Richard Masangkay, Cuevasville in-house real estate officer. It is part and parcel of Cuevasville's master plan of putting up malls where there is great demand for it. The super mall, Masangkay says, will be the latest consumer attraction that could perk up consumer spending in Cavite, which has been experiencing economic boom in years.

The super mall will sit on an 8,400 square-meter lot in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway. Once finished, its total floor area of 34,800 sq. m. will accommodate big-time retailers like Pure Gold Price Club and fast-food outlets such as KFC.

The super mall will feature first-class amenities including state-of-the-art cinemas. Its 7,400 sq.-m. basement parking alone can accommodate hundreds of cars for added consumer convenience.

Masangkay is upbeat about the prospect of the newest Cuevasville mall. For one, the Imus mall is located in the heart of the province's main road network which hosts various financial institutions, schools, hospitals and other consumer attractions.

And because Aguinaldo Highway straddles Bacoor's main thoroughfare, the mall is expected to catch a better percentage of about half a million population of both Bacoor and Imus.

Keppel forges alliance with CPGCorp Phils.

THE FIRST of Palmdale Heights, a condominium development on Sandoval Avenue in Pasig City, is nearing completion after it began construction in October 2002.

Buena Homes Sandoval Inc., a subsidiary of Keppel Philippines Properties Inc., recently appointed CPGCorp Philippines Inc. as the property manager of Palmdale Heights.

KPP, the listed subsidiary of Keppel Land Ltd. under the Keppel Group, was one of the pioneer Singapore companies to spearhead investments in the Philippines, with businesses in marine and engineering services besides property development.

The group's presence in the Philippines began in the mid 1970s. Apart from Palmdale Heights, KPP is also the joint developer of The Podium, the newest shopping hub in Ortigas.

Leveraging on the expertise of both KPP and CPG, this inspiring partnership is committed to provide excellent management service to the residents of Palmdale Heights.

Palmdale Heights is a self-contained modern community, housing some 4,000 condominium units, commercial buildings and amenities such as a two-level clubhouse, swimming pools, parks and playgrounds.

Moldex project called an 'ecopolis'

THERE is a new word in leisure living: ecopolis. The term was coined by Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. for Metrogate Silang Estates, a residential project owned and developed by Moldex Realty Inc. in Silang, a first-class municipality in Cavite.

The word ecopolis sums up the three main characteristics of the 250-hectare residential subdivision: ecology-oriented, family-friendly and self-contained.

Relaxing environment

Located on the Aguinaldo Highway, the project is so close to Metro Manila yet so far from its hustle and bustle. This part of Cavite is an ideal residential area because of its greenery and cool climate.

By designing it around its own concept of an ecopolis, MRI is giving homeowners a residential village that is surrounded by a relaxing country environment and at the same time equipped with modern amenities for recreation and convenience.

In a real sense, MGSE is a micro city within a country setting.

Silang is known for diversified farming, with a big percentage of its annual income coming from cash crops such as pineapple, coffee, coconut, papaya and banana. This is a factor that goes into the development concept of the project.

Best of both worlds

Homeowners can enjoy the best of both worlds: leisure farming, and MGSE's sports and recreational facilities.

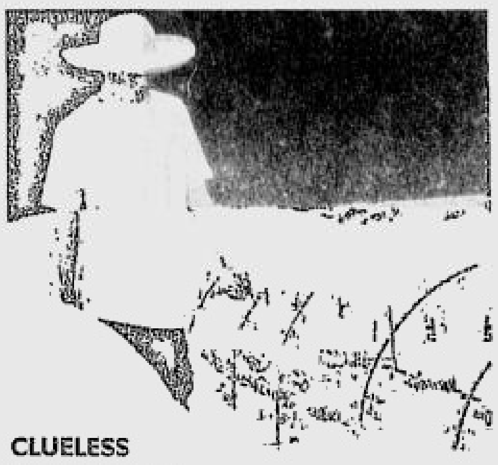
Residents can really enjoy a suite of leisure activities: the clubhouse complex, with a swimming pool and a physical fitness center, a 40-bay driving range with a three-hole course, and an amphitheater.

In the works are a go-kart race track, man-made streams and lakes, a fish farm, wet and dry markets, a commercial center, a preschool, a grade school and parks.

Moldex Realty and its exclusive marketing arm, Moldex Realty Marketing have been serving tens of thousands of satisfied families by building residential projects that meet their needs for privacy, security, comfort and convenience.

The ecopolis concept, itself, is meant to promote the family's physical and social well being.

New Lipa property offers larger lot cuts for farming



CLUELESS about farming? Hacienda Sta. Monica partnered with agricultural consultants The Family Farm School.

By Charles E. Buban

LOOKING forward to a life in the countryside? Property developer Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. is even offering much more—one that would make you feel like *hacienderos*.

LPHI's Hacienda Sta. Monica is a themed country estate development with a well-organized community concept conducive to both recreational as well as agricultural activities.

Located in Barangays Antipolo del Sur and Latag in Lipa, Batangas, the property is only 4 km from the Lipa Town proper, which is 1.5 hours from Makati via the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) Tollway-Tambo exit.

"Indeed this is a perfect weekend getaway from the congestion and hassles of city life and fits people who are into hobby farming, horticulture, agriculture, or simply into nature tripping," described LPHI president Manual Colayco Jr.

Three portions

Hacienda Sta. Monica offers larger lot cuts of 750 to 5,000 sq.m., ideal for spacious and rustic vacation houses.

The entire 95-hectare property is subdivided into three portions: an exclusive residential village (150-350 sq. m. per lot); a farm community (750-1,500 sq. m. per lot); and *hacienda* plantation (which averages 5,000 sq. m. per lot).

"The possibilities are endless with what one can do with our big lot sizes—grow flowers, vegetables, fruit trees or even raise farm animals," suggested Colayco.

Relaxing environment

Set in a cool and relaxing environment, Hacienda Sta. Monica is conducive to both recreational and farming activities.

"Being here is experiencing the quiet life of the countryside without missing the amenities of urban living," assured Colayco.

Residents can spend their time within the property's various amenities: clubhouse, swimming pool, meditative garden, a basketball court for fun and games, jogging paths, nature trails and well-lit, tree-lined streets to stroll on. It also has a landscaped playground for the kids, and even a commercial area for quick buying trips.

More so, there are overhead water tanks with deepwell pumps, plus electric, telephone and cable facilities ensuring the comforts of home.

Securing the entire property is a perimeter fence and a village administration provided by the LPHI Village Management, along with 24-hour security.

Support farming needs

Hacienda Sta. Monica also has complete support farming facilities to help its residents' farming pursuits.

It has agricultural consultants like the Family Farm School ready to provide basic farming knowledge.

Farm maintenance and farm design services are also available.

Flower Factory and Javiland Palms can also supply wide variety of palm trees, fruit bearing trees and ornamental plants.

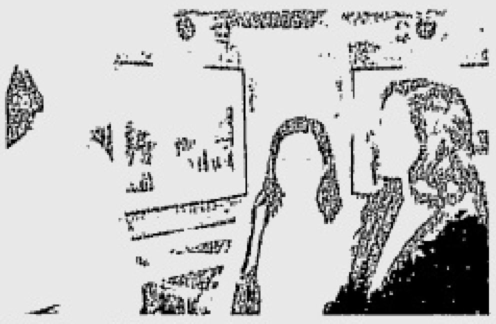
"And if you are successful, the profit from your land could even be made to meet your monthly payments depending on the scheme you choose," revealed Colayco.

Series of events

LPHI has even invited Chin-Chin Gutierrez, one of Asia Time Magazine's Hero of the Earth awardee, and broadcaster Gerry Geronimo, a multi-awarded agriculture and livestock enthusiast, to conduct seminars aimed at enticing the property's buyers to become weekend farmers and eco-lovers.

On Oct. 12, Gutierrez's workshop will coincide with an organic farming exhibit.

Geronimo's session on Nov. 9 on crop harvesting will be held to coincide with a gardening and farming tools fair at the site.



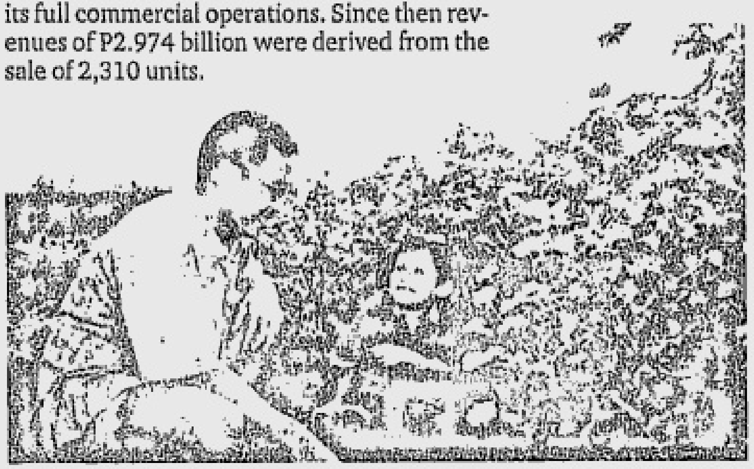
LPHI president Manuel Colayco Jr. and LPHI advertising and promotions manager Yam Buenaventura, center, welcome actress-environmentalist Chin-Chin Gutierrez, right, who will hold a workshop for Hacienda Sta. Monica buyers.

Ayala Land subsidiary

LPHI is the mass housing arm of Ayala Land Inc. It began operations in March 1993 with the test market of its Santarosa housing project wherein 350 house-and-lot packages were sold to employees of the Ayala Group of Companies.

In 1994, the LPHI marked the first year of its full commercial operations. Since then revenues of P2.974 billion were derived from the sale of 2,310 units.

Hacienda Sta Monica is conducive to both recreational and farming activities



NOW you can spend more time enjoying the beauty of nature with your loved ones.

REAL ESTATE CEP-LECTURE SERIES
Oct. 14, 1:30-6:00PM Max's Glorietta2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City
HOW TO START & MANAGE A REAL ESTATE OFFICE
Oct. 28, 1:30-6:00PM Max's Glorietta2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City
JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Nov. 11, 1:30-6:00PM Max's Glorietta2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City
HLURB RULES & UPDATES AND REALTY DEVELOPMENT
Nov. 22, 1:30-6:00PM Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City
REAL ESTATE FINANCE & INVESTMENT ANALYSIS
Dec. 6, 1:30-6:00PM Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND REALTY APPRAISAL
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE
For details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanel@pacific.net.ph

THE BEST CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE
Poliart
BACTERIOSTATIC LAMINATE
Best quality with the most advanced German Manufacturing Technology
Call for your FREE SAMPLE BROCHURE
SONNENBLÖCK
SUPER POLYCARBONATE SHEET
For Skylight Roofing
MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING
493-D Union Bldg Shaw Blvd Mandaluyong City Tels 725-5118 • 724-5608 TELEFAX 721-4525

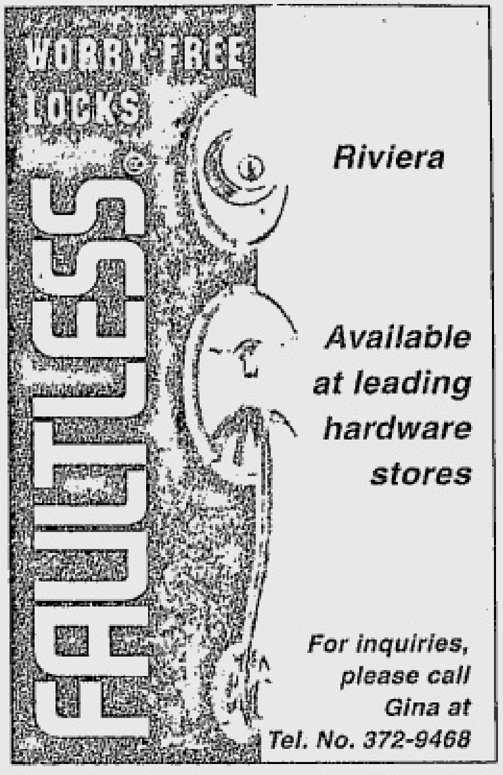
"STRIKES OUT SCALE EVERYWHERE"
with the new
COMPUTERIZED SCALE BUSTING SYSTEM
Little Plumber LP Water Products
"DESIGNED TO BE THE BEST AT THE RIGHT PRICE"
WHAT WILL I NOTICE?
- Removal of scale and stains showers, baths & basins
- Softer smoother skin from softer water
- Prolongs equipment life.
- Increased hot water pressure & hotter water
- Silkier Hair & scum free baths
- Cleaner clothes using less washing powder
- Require no maintenance.

All this without the addition of chemicals or the removal of essential minerals from your drinking water.
Exclusively Distributed by:
ATTC
AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
1325 Filmore Avenue (corner 4528 Emilia St., Palanan, Makati City)
Tel. Nos. (63-2) 729-7074, (63-2) 729-7075 Telefax: (63-2) 551-8490
email: aqua.tech@skyinet.net website: www.aquatreatmentcorp.com

Puksain ang kalawang! Proteksyunan ang bakal at yero!
GUMAMIT NG BAGONG...
Shelby
ASPALTONG PULA
SHELBY RED ASPHALT ROOFING PAINT
Basta problema sa bubong, SHELBY RED ASPHALT ROOFING PAINT ang mahusay na solusyon! Ito ay matibay na pamuksa at pampatigil sa mapanirang kalawang!
Sa tag-ulan man o tag-araw, tibay ng ASPALTONG PULA ay di malulusaw. Mahusay na solusyon sa abot-kayang proteksyon para sa inyong mga bubong!
A Quality Product of
CENTURY CHEMICAL CORPORATION
ASPHALT
Epektibong pintura sa bubong, gutters, trusses na bakal, at labas ng tanke!
introductory price P 240.00 per galon
SHELBY RED ASPHALT ROOFING PAINT. Basta Shelby Aspaltong Pula, Matibay Talaga!

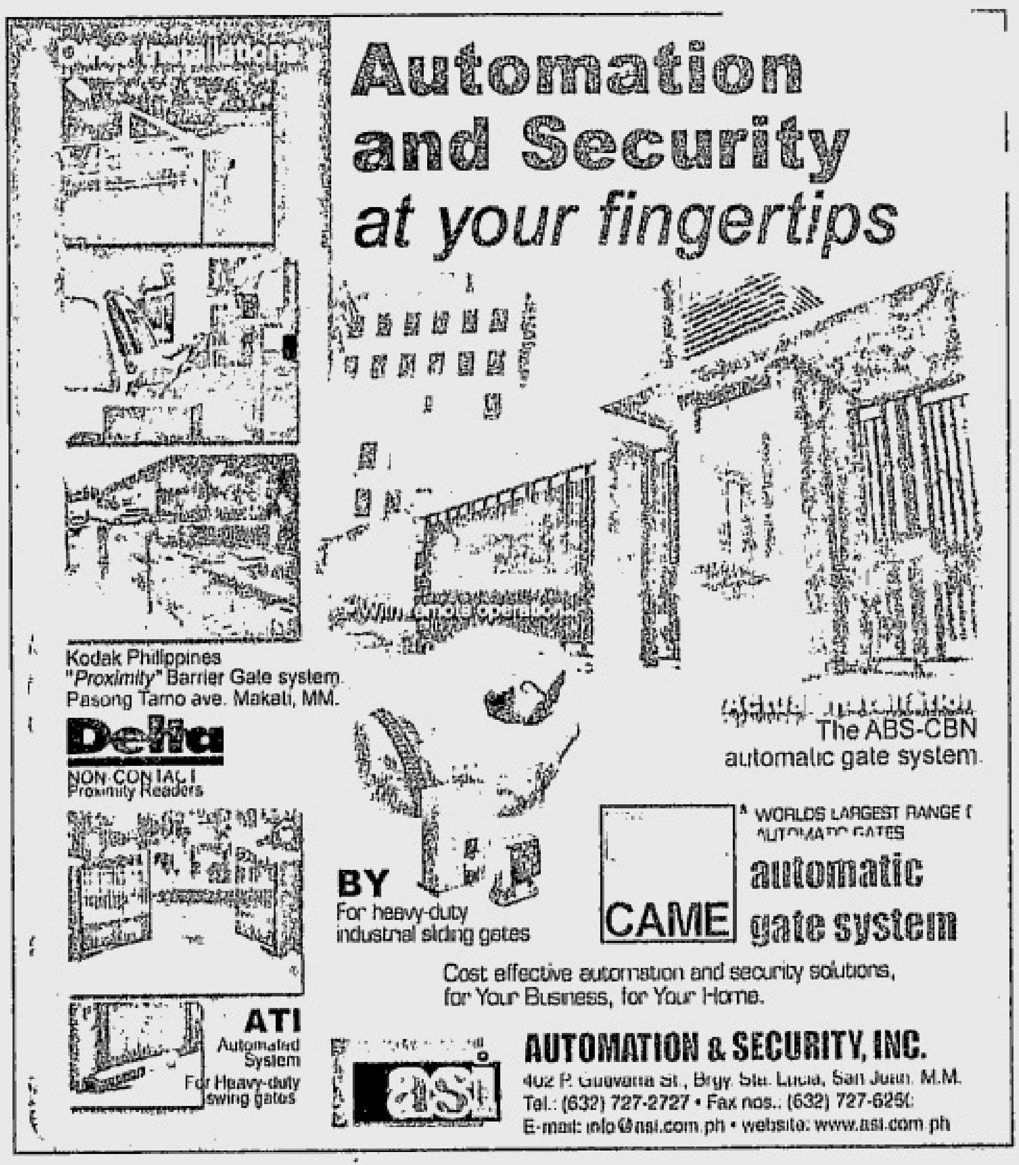
Eurovek VEKA
WORLD'S NO. 1 PVC DOOR AND WINDOW SYSTEM
WITH IMPORTED MULTI LOCKS FITTING
NO MORE PAINTING AND MAINTENANCE
GUARANTEED 50% ENERGY SAVING
MADE IN GERMANY W/ 10 YRS. WARRANTY
EUROVEK PHILS., INC.
EUROVEK BUILDING
7443 Santillan cor. Fernando Sts.
Makati City
Phones 815-0191 to 92
812-0593 / 812-0586
Mobile 0918-0334721 up to 24
Fax: 812-0912
Email: eurovek@info.com.ph
Website: http://www.veka.com

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem
FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures
FLEXROOF
Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings
From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-0631 to 32 • 252-0549 to 51 • 252-0559 Fax: 252-0550
Website: www.campbridge.com
Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave. Dagupan Tel. No. (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St. Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 254-1511 Fax No. (032) 52426
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE


WORRY FREE LOCKS
FAULTLESS®
Riviera
Available at leading hardware stores
For inquiries, please call Gina at Tel. No. 372-9468

New European Technology
AquaGuard
Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint
H-CHEM INDUSTRIES THE TOTAL PAINT COMPANY
3/F Filia Corp Center, 4347 Valdez St., Makati City • Tel. Nos 899-3243 899-3245 899-3249 • Fax No 899-3247

We brought MODERN-DAY Etching in the Philippines.
Application
House Displays, Name Plates, Souvenirs
Souvenirs for Special Occasions, Signages
Murals, Memorial Portraits
and many more
STEINTEK
It makes sense to choose a masterpiece that can stand the test of time.
ALSO AVAILABLE:
Solid Surface Inlay Design
Application:
Kitchen Counter
Reception Counter
Vanities Wall Band
Restaurant Counter
steintek
solid surface hi-tech etching
Visit us at:
Unit 514 Future Point Plaza Condominium
112 Panay Avenue Q.C 1103 M-Mla. Philippines
Telefax: (632) 410-3111/ Tel. Nos. 410-3110/ 410-4450
SHOWROOM - MC HOME DEPOT Pasong Tamo Ext. cor EDSA, Makati City • Tel. Nos. (632) 812-0926/ 812-0934


Automation and Security at your fingertips
Kodak Philippines "Proximity" Barrier Gate system. Pasong Tamo ave. Makati, MM.
Delta NON CONTACT Proximity Readers
The ABS-CBN automatic gate system.
BY For heavy-duty industrial sliding gates
WORLDS LARGEST RANGE OF AUTOMATIC GATES
CAME automatic gate system
ATI Automated System For Heavy-duty swing gates
Cost effective automation and security solutions, for Your Business, for Your Home.
asi AUTOMATION & SECURITY, INC.
402 P. Guevarra St., Brgy. Sta. Lucia, San Juan, M.M.
Tel.: (632) 727-2727 • Fax nos.: (632) 727-6250
E-mail: info@asi.com.ph • website: www.asi.com.ph

GO KIM PAH
A Pebble in the Pond

GO KIM PAH
(1899-1983)

With enough strength, even the smallest pebble can cause the biggest ripples in the pond. More than a hundred years ago, far to the north of the Philippines in the Fukien province of China, a boy that would affect thousands of lives was born. That boy, Go Kim Pah, with hard work and determination, was to cause ripples that spanned throughout his lifetime, ripples that continue changing lives to this day.

An only child to a widowed mother, young Go Kim Pah took on many odd jobs to help augment his mother's meager income. In small tasks such as carrying firewood, peddling fruit, and selling sugar cane. Go Kim Pah nursed and developed his entrepreneurial spirit. Thus, when he immigrated to the Philippines to work in a remittance business at age 15, his discipline and business proficiency proved invaluable. He rose above the ranks; from a simple apprentice in Hong Huat Exchange, he eventually became its manager.

And in 1927, he started his own company: the Kian Lam Exchange and Trading Corporation. Initially employing only three people, including him, the company struggled in its early months. Soon, business eventually picked up, profit grew, and in a few years, it became the forerunner of Equitable Banking Corporation, which was set up immediately after the war to help our country rebuilt itself and its economy.

Go Kim Pah guided the company to many successes, achievements, and innovations to become one of the nation's leading banks. He remained constantly dedicated to earning the trust of his clients and making his business flourish. By 1963, Equitable Bank became the first Filipino commercial bank to venture outside the country when it opened a branch in Hong Kong. The bank also implemented many innovations in technology and service, pioneering the use of computing machines, popular gift checks and international TELEX links. With the acquisition of PCI Bank, Equitable Bank had become the fruit of this persevering man who devoted his entire life in building a multi-faceted legacy. It currently stands as the third largest bank in the Philippines.

Go Kim Pah did not just build a banking institution, but a banking institution whose fundamental tenets strongly reflect the character of the person who founded it. His unquestionable integrity, determination, wisdom and insight for potential coupled with a pioneering spirit proved essential to fulfilling his vision in establishing a successful business, and a successful life.

Through it all, Go Kim Pah never forgot his humble roots. With the Equitable Bank Foundation and its various programs, Go Kim Pah shared his success with the Filipino people. Thus, his legacy continues to this very day, the ripples of a small pebble, touching the lives of many.

* * * * *

What is easily obtained
is little appreciated.
What is not held in great value
is not retained with permanence.
Corporate success achieved without a
thousand days of sweat and
blood may flourish for a while,
but will not last long, and its
fruits will not be enjoyed.

A Tribute in Commemoration of the Life of
GO KIM PAH
on his 20th Death Anniversary

An Enduring Legacy Through Education

Go Kim Pah believed in many things. Among them is the belief that good education is more valuable than material wealth. He believed that a good education is an inborn right of every human being. However, he was aware of the harsh realities of the world. Coming from a poor family, Go Kim Pah knew that only the privileged have access to good education. With the success of Kian Lam and Equitable Bank, Go Kim Pah sought to remedy this problem.

Even during the early years of his business, he would set aside personal funds to sponsor less fortunate yet deserving students. He also gave various donations to many schools and educational institutions. This practice would eventually lead to the birth of the Equitable Bank Foundation, Inc.

The Equitable Bank Foundation, Inc. (EBFI) was established in 1974 with an aim to aid in the betterment of Filipino society by engaging in various non-profit social, cultural, and charitable activities. One of the crucial needs of a nation is a strong and highly developed workforce. Thus, in the spirit of Go Kim Pah's beliefs, EBFI was primarily concerned in providing the means for financially underprivileged students to a good education.

Today, EBFI not only offers scholarship programs, but also has a number of infrastructure development projects, charity programs, and community-based enterprise activities.

EBFI started with the High School and College Education Scholarship Program for dependents of the bank in 1978. More significant, however, is the Go Kim Pah Scholarship Grant for non-dependents, established in 1987. The grant covers matriculation and school fees, proving to be a great boon for many deserving students whose college education wouldn't have been possible without financial aid. Currently, EBFI also offers a Non-Degree Education Scholarship Program, a Vocational Scholarship Program, and a Graduate Studies Scholarship Program.

To date, the Go Kim Pah Scholarship Program has assisted more than four hundred under-privileged Filipinos.

Other than scholarship programs, the Foundation similarly bequeaths endowment funds for Professorial Chair. EBFI has come up with various professorial chair grants in different academic institutions, the most recent of which is its tripartite donation (along with Equitable PCI Bank and Equitable Card Network, Inc.) for the Go Kim Pah Professorial Chair in Information Technology at the AIM Scientific Research Foundation.

EBFI also improves upon the country's educational infrastructures by funding the construction of buildings and seminar halls. Two-room school buildings were put up in Tuguegarao, Cagayan; La Paz, Leyte; Cagayan de Oro; Tabaco, Albay; Ormoc, Samar; and Baliuag, Bulacan. These structures have sheltered many students in their pursuit of learning.

EBC donated three school buildings to Ormoc City through its Christmas Tree of Life fund campaign. Education remains a leading cause for the Equitable Bank Foundation, Inc.

The Christmas Tree of Life won for Equitable Bank an Honorable Mention in the Golden Coin Awards Competition of the Bank Marketing Association (USA). Equitable Bank aimed for more aggressive corporate communications to boost the Bank's image among clients and employees.

Currently, the Foundation also handles many non-academic programs, livelihood projects with PBSP (Philippine Business for Social Progress) and CACEDI (Canada-Assisted Community Enterprise Development, Inc.). BRIDGE-Mindanao (Bridging Indigenous People Towards Development through Education and Entrepreneurship in Mindanao), one of its latest projects, is a literacy program aimed at educating indigenous tribes in Mindanao. It has also been involved in providing funds for other charitable organizations. But with its primary focus on education, the Foundation has captured the essence of Go Kim Pah's beliefs and his generosity. In this, his enduring legacy, Go Kim Pah has helped improve the lives of many individuals, and consequently, the Filipino nation.

* * * * *

A Legacy That Touched Lives

It cannot be denied that the Go Kim Pah Scholarship Program has changed the lives of its beneficiaries. Many of them today are leaders in their chosen fields, their success built upon the education provided by the Equitable Bank Foundation. We examine the lives of three of its beneficiaries, and see just how significant a part the Foundation played in altering the course of their lives.

Jonathan Umali *was the first Go Kim Pah scholar to graduate. Afterwards, he worked in Equitable Bank for two years, and is currently the "Project Development Head of Community Innovation Inc., a relatively new subsidiary of Ayala Land Corporation.*

He came from Lipa, Batangas to study Industrial Management in De La Salle University (DLSU) on 1986. After his first year, however, lack of funds threatened to stop his schooling. The low income of his mother, a hard-working public school teacher, and his father, an honest military officer, was barely enough to support his education, in addition to the upkeep of the family. Seeing the announcements for their new scholarship program, Jonathan Umali sought the help of the Equitable Bank Foundation. He was granted full scholarship for the rest of his stay in DLSU.

The grant freed him from worrying about money and allowed him to focus on academic pursuits. He now had time to strive for academic excellence and to engage in many extracurricular activities, sports, school politics, and to dabble in his varied interests. He graduated in 1990.

Now in a stable, promising career, he seeks challenges, projects, and responsibilities that would help him grow in the company. He admires the pioneering spirit of Go Kim Pah, and how he rose from a humble background and started an institution that has lasted for generations.

Victor Laynes *is now the VP and IT Head of Robinson's Bank. He handles all the IT requirements of the company, from its ATM machines to its many operating terminals. Before that, he worked for six years in Equitable Bank. He was assigned to fully computerize its rural branches and to train its employees in the system's usage, all from scratch.*

He came from a big family, one of fourteen siblings. The cost of education for such a large family was surely a strain for his parents. At the time, they were simultaneously paying for the college education of six of their children. Luckily, the Equitable Bank Foundation granted Victor Laynes a scholarship and shouldered the cost of his studies in the University of the Philippines.

The scholarship gave him the challenge to maintain high grades, drove him to excel, and pushed him to perform better. He graduated in 1991 with a degree in Computer Science.

Merely 12 years after graduating, he is now nearing the zenith of his career, a highly successful man at such a young age. Inspired by Go Kim Pah, he aspires to start his own business and, for a change, work for himself. Perhaps he would get to do so after taking a break from the fast-paced corporate life, where his success has already proven his worth.

Anthony Leung *is the Senior Manager of ITG/DCD/Technical Support for Equitable PCI Bank and its subsidiaries. He handles many different roles for the company: system administrator, a consultant and coordinator for the various subsidiaries, and a researcher for upcoming technologies.*

Anthony Leung's father was the sole breadwinner of the family. However, his company was among those who ran into political trouble during the martial law era, leaving him jobless and penniless, with minimal means to support his children's education. He then passed away in 1987, forcing Anthony Leung to stop schooling. His mother worked at a store in Divisoria to provide for her three children, but her income was not enough to keep him in school. The scholarship grant allowed Anthony Leung to resume his studies. It would be a turning point in his life.

From a bleak situation, the grant had given Anthony Leung a chance to steer his life to a brighter future, to "change his life for the better." It allowed him to complete his education in De La Salle University, graduating in 1991 with a degree in Computer Science. Like Go Kim Pah, he believes in the value of education, especially in today's competitive environment.

Eventually, he would like to start his own business, but for now, he is focused on making good of his career in the bank and in making the most of what he can contribute. From his early struggles to his climb to the top, Anthony Leung's life is a fine parallel to Go Kim Pah's own.

Equitable Bank Foundation Inc.
4/F Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue corner H.V dela Costa Street, Makati City · Tel No.: 840-7000 local 2520 · Telefax 812-6393

A foundation of
Equitable PCI BANK

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

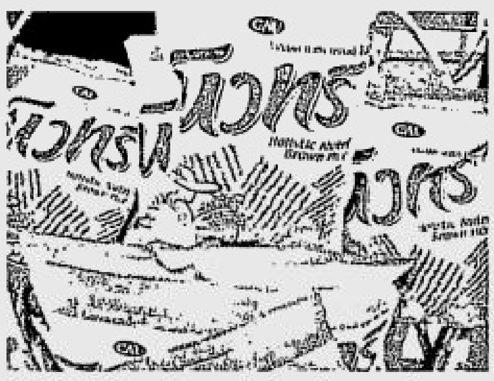
Now on its fifth year, Thailand's sprawling health and beauty show reinforces the country's rep as a top destination for healthy living and relaxation

THIS booth displays organically grown vegetables and other natural herbs.

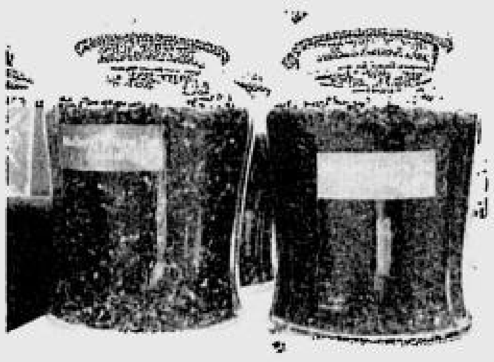
EXPERIENCE the soothing 5,000-year-old traditional Thai massage.

The body-mind harmony show

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora



HEALTHY snacks made from brown rice



THAILAND'S PRIDE. Tea leaves come in many natural flavors, such as the Mulberry Green Tea Pandan/Original above.

THAILAND, a kingdom rich in natural resources, ancient meditation techniques and legendary traditional massages, once again promoted its mind and body products and facilities in a recent trade fair dubbed Health and Beauty Show 2003 at the Impact Exhibition Center in Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi, the adjacent province to Bangkok.

Now on its fifth year, the exhibit was held on a sprawling 20,000 sq m area with about 800 show booths from 600 Thai companies showcasing a diverse range of products—from herbal/aromatherapy offerings to fitness equipment, traditional medical services side by side with state-of-the-art medical tools, beauty schools and makeup institutes to health spas, resorts and sports clubs, and more.

The recent sudden growth of spas all over Thailand, in fact, signals a new period for this country once heavily associated with the flesh trade.

A quick look-see around Bangkok reveals health clubs and rows of spa services just a stone's throw from each other. Even the famous night bazaars have booths offering, say, foot massages. Depending on ambience and the know-how and training of staff, massage services of all sorts can be incredibly affordable—or ridiculously overpriced.

Medical services in modern Thai hospitals, such as Rama IX Hospital, is inexpensive too, consistent with the country's intent to promote its health services. A physical exam package consisting of a blood test that includes CBC, FBS, creatinine, uric acid, cholesterol and SGPT, with urine analysis and chest X-ray, costs only 1,350 baht (around P1,900). A similar checkup in a reputable Philippine hospital would cost twice as much.

The health and beauty show, according to a statement from the organizer, NCC Management and Development Co. Ltd., aims to "reinforce Thailand's position in the world's health and beauty industry."

Indeed, what better time to promote its native herbs, aromatherapy products and health food and drinks (such as the nutritious rice milk) than in today's increasingly health-conscious generation?

In fact, since the show started in 1999, the number of exhibitors has increased from a mere 102 companies to 600, and visitors have jumped from less than 1,000 to more than 8,000 this year.

Merging old and new

Like its famous massages, which by the way was one of the services offered during the trade show, the exhibit merged tradition and innovation, local practices and modern sciences. A Thai massage treatment, after all, is a 5,000-year-old tradition that's considered both a science and an art in Thailand.

Facial treatments using either homegrown milky cream products or western technology like hot ozone treatments were also offered. The services extended to eyelash curling, makeup services, hair care from Thai hairstylists in hair salon booths, waxing and tattooing with disposable needles, either for aesthetic purposes or for more permanent uses, such as eyebrow tattoos.

Penetrating the local market and becoming

THE BODY/ C2

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy	Cowboy	Cowboy
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	STREETLIFE PHRYGIAN	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	THINKERS W/ JOGRAD CHICULLED MEN OPPOSE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	MUSIC CIRCUIT MR.ROXY	[illegible]
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FAT 16 HEADWORKZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	VERSE 2	OCT.29-SABOR LATINO
REMEDIOS ☎ 522 0429	RHYTHM ACE 3RD MOVEMENT	OCT.28-SABOR LATINO
FOREST	ACOULITES T.M. KALAW COR. PARADE ST. LUNETA PARK, MANILA	FAMILY FUN DAY BUFFET AT P 250.00 EVERY SUNDAY 11:30 AM-2:30 PM ☎ 400-7435/525-0514

OCTOBER 07 TUESDAY

Facial Care Centre is Now On-Line!

Your favorite skincare center is now on the world-wide-web! Now you can find out all about it and the beautiful experience it promises, with just a click on your mouse.

Just log-on to: www.facialcarecentre.com.ph and start browsing on the things you need to know. Check out the *Skincare Finder* to know your skin type. Get skincare tips from the experts. Learn more about their technologically advanced treatments and the latest breakthroughs in skincare. Read testimonies of happy, satisfied clients. View location maps to find the center nearest you. Plus, you can also check out this month's special treat by simply logging-on.

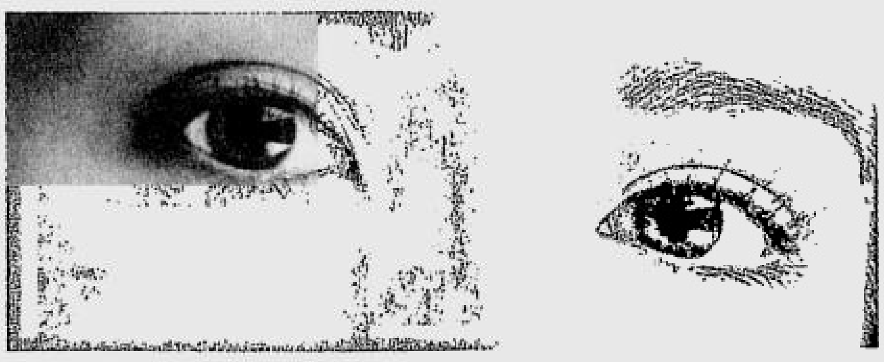
This October, the Facial Care Centre celebrates it's 21st anniversary with BIG discounts on selected treatments, so everyone can indulge in **The Big October Beauty Experience!** A pioneer in the skincare industry and now celebrating 21 years of Successful *Reverse Ageing*, the Facial Care Centre truly continues to serve you better. It not only improves on treatments and services, it also provides you with more information and an easy access to it.

'Click. Surf. Check out the latest. Be informed. Now you can read about Facial Care Centre anytime, anywhere you are!

Or just dial the Facial Care Centre branch nearest you: Makati - 816 1259 • Ortigas - 687 2196 Quezon City - 372 6633 • Shaw - 534 7701 Alabang - 842 1144 • Binondo - 243 8138 Congressional - 920 7938 • Pampanga - 961 3404 Cebu - 233 7631.

Facial care centre

The total approach to eye care



AEI knows how much you value your time, so we've added something new to our service portfolio: an optical dispensary.

Your friend wants special glasses for her baby. Your classmate's grandpa can't move around without low-vision glasses, You want to improve your swimming skills with specialized eyewear. Now all of you will find it all, and more, right here at AEI in Rockwell.

Our legions of satisfied customers already know. AEI's world-class team of ophthalmologists and optometrists can handle just about every eye care requirement. In an environment that looks less like a hospital and more like the lobby of a -star hotel With the most advanced equipment, of course.

So, go tell your friend and classmate about AEI's new optical dispensary. Visit AEI now, and share our vision of making the Philippines a world-class center for eye care in Asia.

Asian Care for Asian Eyes

9th & 10th Floors, Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center, Makati City * Tel (632) 898-2020
Email: eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com * Website: www.asianeyeinstitute.com

The body-mind harmony show

From page C1

popular, too, are the whitening products—soaps, creams, moisturizers and whitening masks that claim to help change new cells to become, well, "naturally" white. Very much like the Philippines.

Herbal cosmetics are in vogue as well, patronized by an increasing number of women who insist on using only natural ingredients such as Thai herbs in their makeup. From sunscreens to makeup removers, cleansing liquid soaps, gel and mud masks, natural is the way to go.

Supplementary food in colorful tablets also claim to use natural ingredients, be it for weight loss, health maintenance or as antioxidants. There's the soy protein isolate tablet, currently under debate among researchers as to whether it can really help prevent and treat bone loss.

Among snacks free of preservatives, the focus was on Holistic Nutri Brown Rice, which is blended with black sesame seeds and is said to be packed with protein, carbohydrate, minerals and dietary fiber.

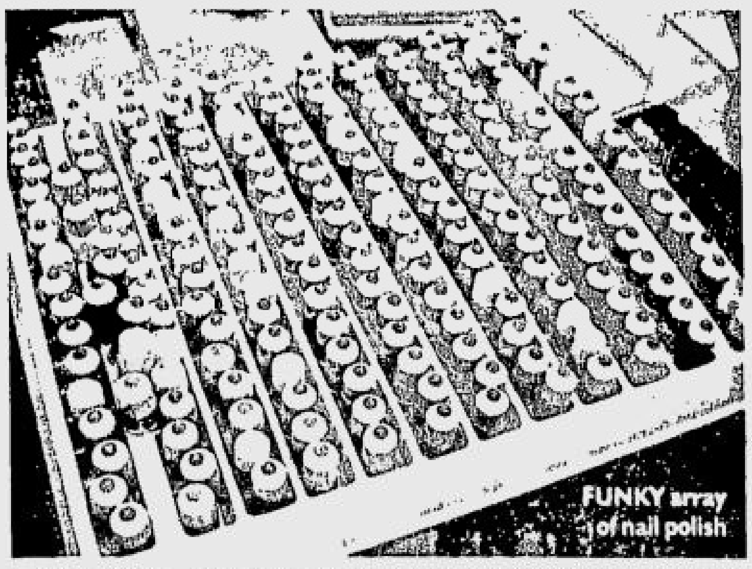
Liquor aficionados, meanwhile, had a dose of Satho, the Thai traditional alcoholic beverage said to have been produced for eight centuries now, and interestingly sold in ceramic bottles.

Corporations, exporters, entrepreneurs from Asian and European countries, the United States and Canada came to witness all these and many more of Thailand's natural and synthetic products designed to harmonize body and mind. An even larger event will be held on Sept. 22-26 next year.

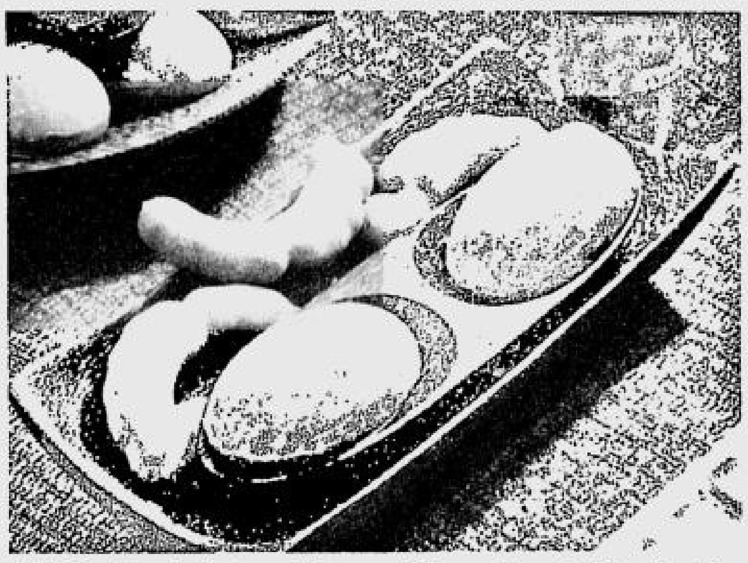
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

SUPPLEMENTARY food for dieters and health-conscious consumers

BAR soaps with traditional Thai herbs are said to help soften the skin.



FUNKY array of nail polish



RISING to fame is the tamarind soap, said to nourish and whiten the skin.

Choose the best apparel and gear for mountain-climbing

BRINGING out the best even in treacherous terrain

IN as much as mountain-climbing is a full-fledged sport, everyone into the game would constantly push themselves to the limit in order to excel. That is, moving on to climb a higher peak. And this is where full preparation is necessary. Planning and preparing for an ultimate climbing expedition means getting the best training regimen and choosing the best apparel and gear to carry with them to the summit. These climbers know the quality of their gear can spell the difference between conquering the harsh elements and succumbing to the pitfalls of the climb. Therefore, they never compromise and choose only the best brand of outdoor gear and equipment.

Ask the world's best mountain climbers what brand they rely on for their mountain climbing togs and gear and you would get a unanimous answer: The North Face.

The North Face is the brand for serious mountaineers and climbers. For the past 30 years, it has been known and used for its design, technological innovation and durability. Even most of today's best mountaineers use the range of The North Face's clothing, high-tech gear and equipment: Here are three of the world's most competitive mountain climbers, all off them endorsers of The North Face who exude the brand's outgoing nature and drive for excellence.

Pete Athans. This name which has been synonymous to exploration has been climbing for over two decades. His legendary record of feats includes 15 expeditions to Mt. Everest, the most challenging mountain to climb known to man.

IN ACTION: Rock climbing with TNF apparel

Mick Fowler. This well-known adventure rock climber was first introduced to the Swiss and French Alps at age 13. Mick's name is etched on the rolls onsight adventure rock climbing throughout Britain. He has climbed a dozen sea cliffs and has led expeditions to the greater ranges since 1982.

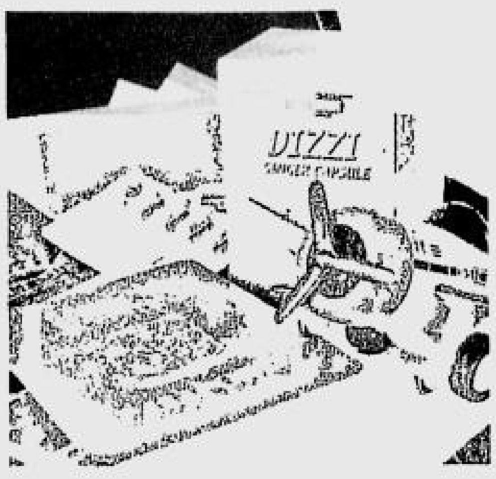
Lisa Gnade. Extreme crack and sport climber. She has been climbing for more than 15 years and is considered one of the most accomplished all-around free climbers in the US.

The North Face clothing, gear and equipment is available in all Bratpack stores nationwide.

WEEKLY DOSAGE

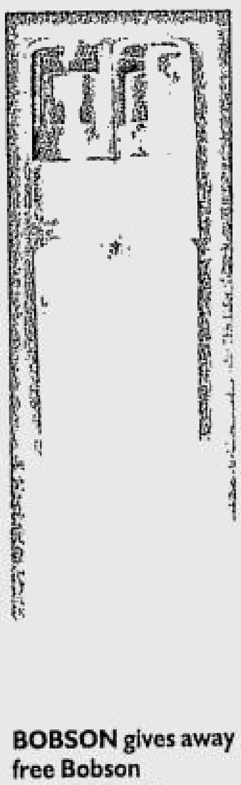
NU SKIN pampers men with its grooming products: Nu Skin for Men Dividends Shave Cream and Aftershave Balm, Dividends Antiperspirant Deodorant, Ava Puhi Moni Shampoo and Light Conditioner, Body Smoother and Epoch Firewalker. Call 6890333.

STIEFEL pharmaceutical company offers its pimple treatment called PanOxyl. It comes in three strengths: 2.5 percent for mild acne (blackheads and whiteheads), 5 percent for mild to moderate acne and 10 percent for severe acne and body acne (usually found on the chest and back). All strengths in 10 g and 40 g packs are now available in drugstores.



BETTER Herbs Inc. provides an herbal supplement called Dizzi Ginger Capsule, which uses natural ginger rhizome extract that can help a person overcome motion sickness and nausea. Other products are Better Sleep, 7 Better Herbs, Banaba-Ampalaya, Choleste-Redux and Immuno Boost.

ANMUM milk offers a Great Expectations rewards program. By collecting Anmum tin foils and spoon tips, you can earn "baby points," which can be exchanged for gift items. A 180-g pack is equivalent to 180 points, while the 400-g pack and 1-kilogram can are worth 400 and 1,000 points, respectively. Simply accomplish an order form, enclose with Anmum tin foils and/or spoon tips and send to Anmum Club Consumer Center, P.O. Box 1753 Quezon City Central Post Office.



BOBSON gives away free Bobson Spritzers with a minimum single receipt purchase of any Bobson regular-priced items worth P499.95. The promo is ongoing until Nov. 30 at Bobson's stores and selected concessionaires.

PASCUAL Laboratories is offering Addlife CoQ10, a nutritional supplement for cancer patients. CoQ10 fights off free radicals, unstable molecules known to damage healthy cells and bring about different health hazards. Addlife CoQ10 comes in a 30-mg dosage and is in capsule form for fast body absorption.

Celebration of beauty and fashion

POND'S kicks off its latest campaign with a fashion show and rave party at Uva, Temple, Masas, Cena and the Greenbelt 2 patio. The fashion show will be directed by Robbie Carmona and hosted by TV personality/model Amanda Griffin and P4's Frank Garcia. A night of cool music and partying will follow the show.

DJs Robby Mananquil and Martin Pulgar will play party music in the patio while resident DJs play chill-out/club mix music at Uva, house music at Temple, R&B at Masas and reggae at Cena.

The party will be held on Oct. 10, 7 p.m., at the Greenbelt 2 strip, in front of Cena, Makati.

Preventing badminton injuries

From page C4

or female, are the ones who usually end up with knee surgery.

There is still much research and discussion going on about the best way to prevent ACL injuries, but so far, two things stand out. The first is to strengthen and stretch the muscles that surround the knee. The second is to teach athletes, especially females, to assume an "athletic ready" stance at all times (a lowered bent knee position) and to land properly with a bent or flexed knee.

The US Naval Academy as well as European and American sports teams have been able to dramatically reduce ACL injuries in their female players by making them undergo strengthening programs and by teaching them how to land properly with bent knees.

Lunges in different directions should be emphasized in the strengthening program because these are movements that mimic what happens during the game. A word of caution though: Doing these exercises wrong will actually cause injury. So make sure you know what you are doing, or get a fitness or badminton trainer who does.

Lower back

Strong trunk muscles (abdominals and lower back) are necessary to act as a stabilizing and balancing force when a badminton player makes sudden starts, stops and changes in direction. When these muscles are weak, performance is affected and the risk of a lower back injury is increased.

Tight lower back muscles and tight hamstrings (back of the thigh) are also contributors to lower back pain because they pull the pelvis and consequently the spine out of proper alignment.

Strengthen and stretch the abdominals and lower back with core stabilizing exercises (Pilates exercises are a good example). Improve the flexibility of your hamstrings if they are very tight.

Shoulders

All sports where you have to constantly bring your arm overhead can cause overuse injuries in the rotator cuff, and badminton is no exception. The rotator cuff is composed of four small muscles that go around your shoulder joint like a cuff. They rotate your shoulder inward and outward. These muscles can easily get irritated when they are weak and overused.

According to Jorgensen, overhead movements are the not only cause of rotator cuff injuries. Functional studies have revealed that there is much more shoulder rotation involved in the forehand and backhand stroke in badminton than was previously believed, "with the internal/external rotation of the shoulder as the greatest force-producing movement."

Strengthening and stretching the rotator cuff should be part of the fitness regimen of all racquet sports players. Rotator cuff exercises can be done using dumbbells, rubber bands and special strength machines.

Elbows and wrists

According to Canlas, lightweight racquets that are tightly strung and absorb a greater impact from the ball may not be very appropriate for beginners who don't have the forearm strength to absorb the impact. Their elbows end up taking a beating, and they can develop an inflammation of the tendon on the outside of the elbow or what is generically called a "tennis elbow."

A small grip can also lead to a tennis elbow because the muscles that attach to the elbow have to work harder. The Act Badminton Association of Australia says, "Grip is crucial. Small grips are best for small hands and large grips for large hands. Most handles are between three-and-a-half and three-and-five-eighths inches in circumference.

Many players build up their grip size by adding extra wrap-around toweling grips. Why? Because racquet-head speed is generated by using short, fast strokes, and a larger grip gives more effective transfer of power from arm to racquet. It can also mean less strain and injuries to the forearm, elbow, upper arm and shoulder."

Don't disregard a tennis elbow. It won't kill you, but the condition is notoriously hard to get rid of and it can affect your daily activities.

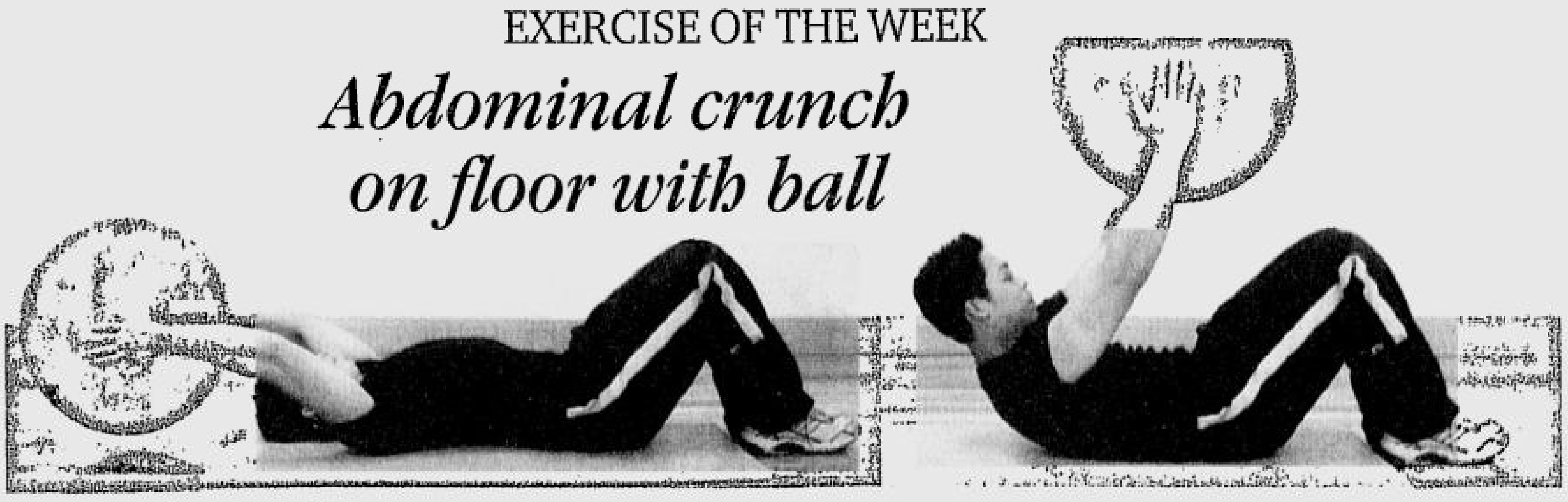
The wrists play a major role in playing badminton since they determine where the ball will go. If your wrists are not used to anything more strenuous than computer keyboard typing, you may experience a sprained or overused wrist somewhere along the way in your fledgling badminton career.

Wrists and forearms can be strengthened with light dumbbells by doing exercises like reverse bicep curls, hammer curls, wrist curls, reverse wrist curls, ball squeezing, etc. The use of elbow bands can also help, because they reduce the amount of impact transmitted to the elbow.

My new website is www.tinajuanfitness.info. I can be reached by email at fitness@attglobal.net. I apologize that I cannot answer each message personally.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Abdominal crunch on floor with ball



THIS exercise strengthens the abdominal muscles.

Equipment:

Exercise mat and stability ball (you can also use a weighted medicine ball or basketball, soccer ball, etc.)

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with your knees bent and hold the stability ball in your hands.
2. Take the ball overhead.
3. Curl the upper body and simultaneously bring the ball toward your knees.
4. You have two options:

a. Keep the upper body in a curled position while you bring the ball backward and forward.

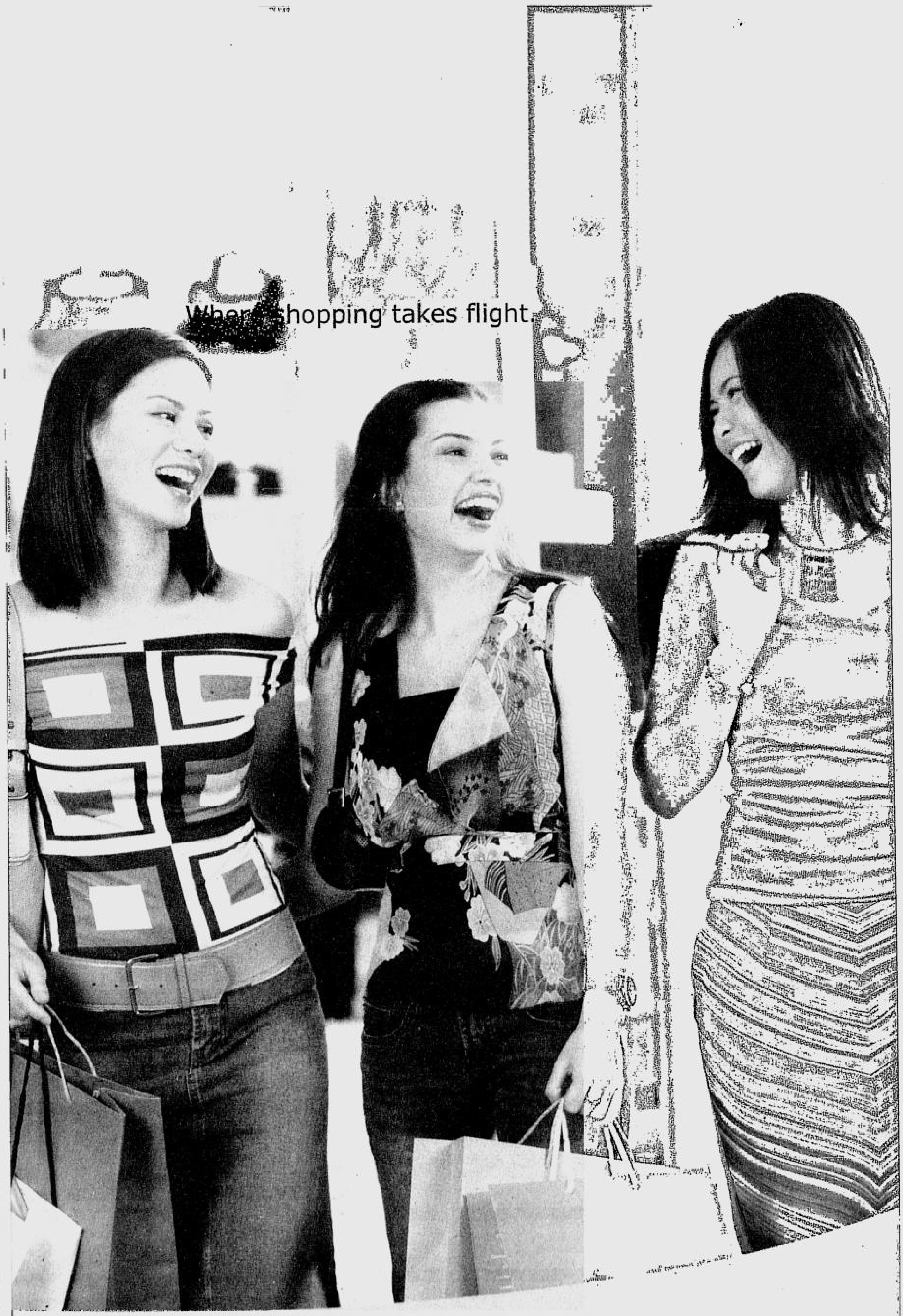
b. Curl up and down.

Performance tips:

1. When the arms are overhead, make sure that the back of the ribcage is on the floor so you don't arch your lower back.
2. Keep your shoulders relaxed at all times. There is a tendency to hunch the shoulders when the arms are overhead.
3. In the curled position, you should be looking at your knees rather than the ceiling to avoid straining the neck.
4. In option A, inhale as you bring the arms overhead; exhale as you bring the arms toward the knees. In option B, inhale as you curl down; exhale as you curl up.

Repetitions:

Do 5-10 repetitions.


Where shopping takes flight.

Clear the fashion runway as the best brands in clothing, shoes and accessories have landed. Robinsons Galleria East Wing has arrived! Come on board and suit up from head to toe with names that will send your fashionista spirit in flight. An experience like this can only take off at Robinsons Galleria East Wing.

NOW OPEN

Robinsons Department Store • Chocolate Clothing • Company Hearts & Arrows • Country Lifestyle • Health & Beyond • Marcella • NafNaf • Royal Sporting House • Rusty Lopez • Showcase Carpet • S.P.F.

MORE SHOPS TO OPEN
Arcel's Design • Asian Finds • Back To Basics • Beauty Bar • Bed 2 Bath • Blue Dolphin • B.T.I.C. (Better Than Ice Cream) • Cereo Candles • Cinnabon • Circa • CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery • Color & Life • Digital Studio • Dimensione • Deceño 465 Gifts & Decor • Electronics Depot • EO Active Eyestyle • Esse • Forty Winks • Funktionell • Gloria Jeans Coffee • Gold's Gym • Hao Tsai • Home Options • Jesi Mendez • Lacoste • Lonely Planet • Marks & Spencer • Oodys • Papyvore • Parklane • Ritz Apple Strudle • Sticks • Terranova • The Thai Kitchen • The Floor Center • Urban Concepts • U2 • Van Heusen • VNC • Wade • Watsons • Women's Secrets • Yellow Cab • 50th Avenue

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
EAST WING
Where life takes flight.

Preventing badminton injuries

Part Two

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ALTHOUGH this article was written specifically for badminton, the injury prevention advice is the same for tennis, squash and racquetball.

I don't have enough space in this column to describe the strengthening and stretching exercises, so if you don't have access to a knowledgeable fitness trainer, e-mail me and I will send you the instructions.

Ankles

The two most common injuries to the ankle in badminton are ankle sprains and Achilles tendonitis or ruptures.

Ankle sprains happen when the foot turns inward due to wrong foot placement in a side-to-side motion. Athletic training experts recommend that athletes dorsiflex (pull the toes upward) their ankles and land with the whole foot (rolling from inside to out) when making wide movements to the side. Small quick side-to-side movements are done on the balls of the feet, but if the same technique is used for larger sideway movements, the chances of an ankle sprain are increased.

Ankle-strengthening exercises are a must. A study on elite Scottish badminton players also indicated that ankle braces may help minimize the incidence of ankle sprains by restricting foot inversion.

If you are experiencing pain in the heel, back of the ankle or calves, go see a sports medicine doctor because pain in these areas can be an indication that your Achilles tendon is weak or overworked, which can lead to a rupture.

> Lunges should be taught in strengthening programs since these movements mimic what happens during the game

According to Dr. Christopher Nanninni of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, ruptures most commonly occur in middle-aged "weekend warriors" who play recreational sports that require bursts of jumping, pivoting and running like tennis, basketball and badminton, because "the Achilles tendon can grow weak and thin with age and lack of use."

George Canlas, sports medicine doctor of St. Luke's Hospital, told me that his four patients who needed surgical repair for a ruptured Achilles tendon due to badminton were middle-aged.

Nanninni further explains that ruptures happen most often "when a player makes a forceful push-off with his foot with the knee straightened (like when jumping) or when he suddenly trips or stumbles, and the foot is thrust in front to break the fall, causing the tendon to forcefully overstretch."

It can also happen upon landing from a jump. A Swedish study found that the majority of ruptures happen at the middle or end of the game.

Nanninni's advice to prevent Achilles tendonitis and rupture is to stretch the calf muscles daily and always warm up before a game. He also recommends that you "maintain a continuous level of activity in your sport or work up gradually to full participation if you have been out of the sport for a period of time."

A study on elite Swedish badminton players also recommended eccentric strength training of the calf muscle to help prevent Achilles tendonitis and ruptures.

When you lift up on your toes, your calf muscles shorten and contract concentrically. When you lower down, your calf muscles lengthen under the load and contract eccentrically. Eccentric training of the calf focuses on the lowering part of a calf exercise. By training the calf eccentrically, the calf and Achilles tendon will be better conditioned to take the rigors of the game.

Coaching manager Andrew Martin of the Badminton Association of England writes with regard to stopping, "In the rear court, the back 'brake' foot should be placed at almost right angles to the direction of travel to enhance push off from the floor and decrease the chance of injury to the calf muscle and Achilles tendon. The foot should be placed flat on to the floor; the knee should be placed directly over it and in line with the foot. If this braking action is done well, it can be pushed off from strongly to start recovery back to a suitable position."

Knees

The term "ACL" doesn't ring a bell for many people, but if you are a professional, amateur, or recreational athlete, you are probably quite familiar with it.

ACL stands for "anterior cruciate ligament," which is the main stabilizer of the knee. A torn ACL is one of the most common athletic injuries. It usually happens in basketball, soccer, snow skiing, tennis and, yes, badminton.

A 1997 study in the scientific journal Orthopedics said that most non-contact ACL injuries were mainly due to "planting and cutting," straight knee landing, and landing with a hyperextended knee.

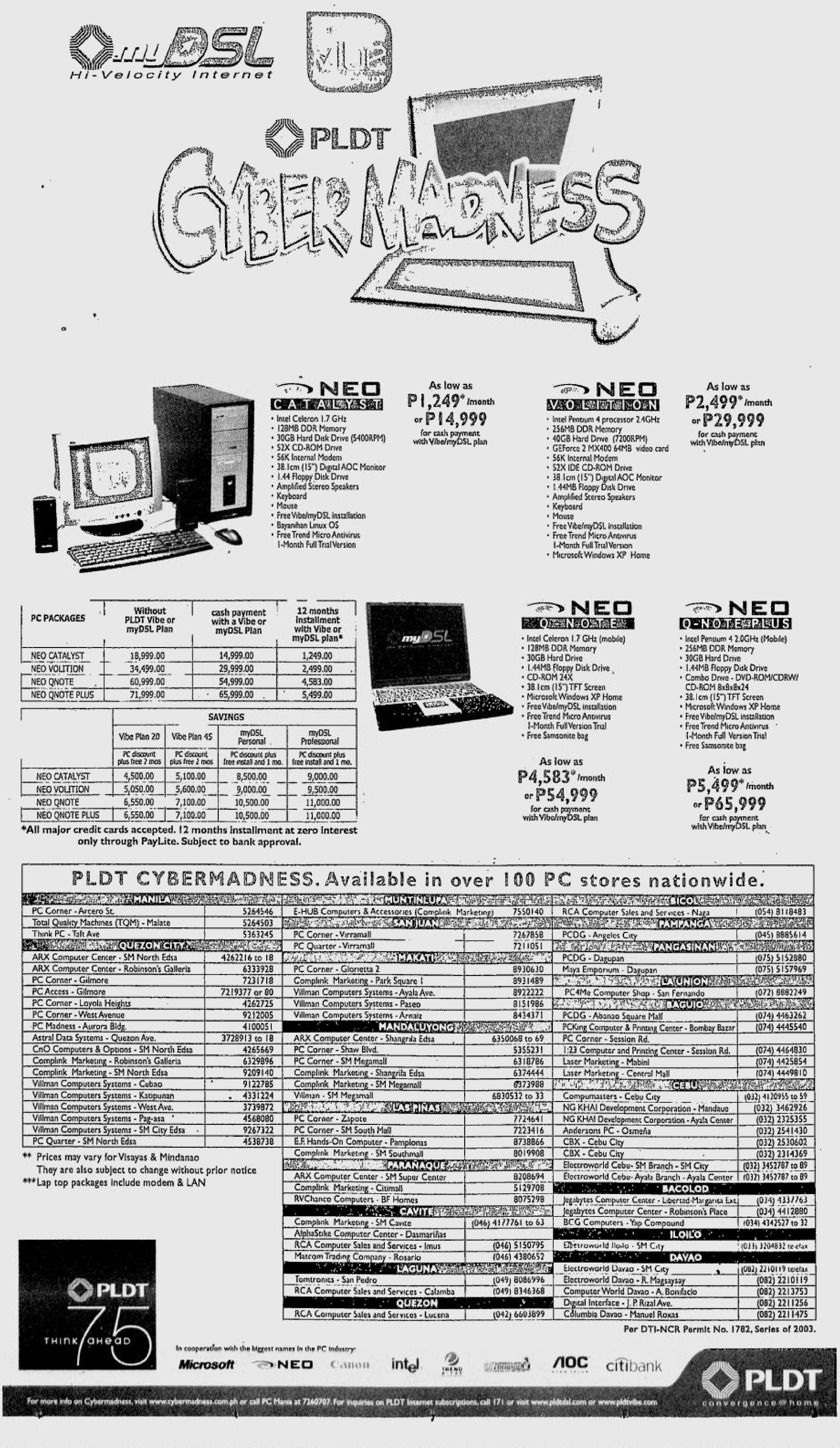
"Planting and cutting" refers to when an athlete plants the foot facing one direction and rotates or cuts to the opposite side, leaving the foot still facing the original direction. In other words, the foot and knee end up going in opposite directions. Something has to give, and that "something" is the ACL.

As more women are joining sports that were formerly dominated by men, ACL injuries in females have been increasing. The study mentioned above lists several theories why women tend to have more ACL injuries than men.

Women are in poor physical condition when they are introduced to sports, women tend to land from a jump with relatively straight knees rather than in a bent knee position, women's ligaments may be affected by a rise in estrogen during the menstrual cycle, women have weak thigh muscles, and women have wider hips (making the thighbone connect to the shinbone at a greater angle than that of a man). This anatomical quirk, coupled with weak thigh muscles, pulls the kneecap sideways out of alignment.

Another anatomical oddity that may predispose women to an ACL injury is a small ligament size. A study found that 80 percent of women have smaller than normal ACLs and so do 20 percent of men. These people, male

PREVENTING, C3



myDSL
Hi-Velocity Internet
vibe
PLDT
CYBER MADNESS

NEO CATALYST
- Intel Celeron 1.7 GHz
- 128MB DDR Memory
- 30GB Hard Disk Drive (5400RPM)
- 52X CD-ROM Drive
- 56K Internal Modem
- 38.1cm (15") Digital AOC Monitor
- 1.44 Floppy Disk Drive
- Amplified Stereo Speakers
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Free Vibe/myDSL installation
- Bayanihan Linux OS
- Free Trend Micro Antivirus 1-Month Full Trial Version

As low as P1,249* /month or P14,999 for cash payment with Vibe/myDSL plan

NEO VOLITION
- Intel Pentium 4 processor 2.4GHz
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Drive (7200RPM)
- GEForce 2 MX400 64MB video card
- 56K Internal Modem
- 52X IDE CD-ROM Drive
- 38.1cm (15") Digital AOC Monitor
- 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Amplified Stereo Speakers
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Free Vibe/myDSL installation
- Free Trend Micro Antivirus 1-Month Full Trial Version
- Microsoft Windows XP Home

As low as P2,499* /month or P29,999 for cash payment with Vibe/myDSL plan

PC PACKAGES	Without PLDT Vibe or myDSL Plan	cash payment with a Vibe or myDSL Plan	12 months installment with Vibe or myDSL plan*
NEO CATALYST	18,999.00	14,999.00	1,249.00
NEO VOLITION	34,499.00	29,999.00	2,499.00
NEO QNOTE	60,999.00	54,999.00	4,583.00
NEO QNOTE PLUS	71,999.00	65,999.00	5,499.00

	SAVINGS			
	Vibe Plan 20	Vibe Plan 45	myDSL Personal	myDSL Professional
	PC discount plus free 2 mos	PC discount plus free 2 mos	PC discount plus free install and 1 mo.	PC discount plus free install and 1 mo.
NEO CATALYST	4,500.00	5,100.00	8,500.00	9,000.00
NEO VOLITION	5,050.00	5,600.00	9,000.00	9,500.00
NEO QNOTE	6,550.00	7,100.00	10,500.00	11,000.00
NEO QNOTE PLUS	6,550.00	7,100.00	10,500.00	11,000.00

*All major credit cards accepted. 12 months installment at zero interest only through PayLite. Subject to bank approval.

myDSL

NEO Q-NOTE
- Intel Celeron 1.7 GHz (mobile)
- 128MB DDR Memory
- 30GB Hard Drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- CD-ROM 24X
- 38.1cm (15") TFT Screen
- Microsoft Windows XP Home
- Free Vibe/myDSL installation
- Free Trend Micro Antivirus 1-Month Full Version Trial
- Free Samsonite bag

As low as P4,583* /month or P54,999 for cash payment with Vibe/myDSL plan

NEO Q-NOTE PLUS
- Intel Pentium 4 2.0GHz (Mobile)
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 30GB Hard Drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Combo Drive - DVD-ROM/CDRW/ CD-ROM 8x8x8x24
- 38.1cm (15") TFT Screen
- Microsoft Windows XP Home
- Free Vibe/myDSL installation
- Free Trend Micro Antivirus 1-Month Full Version Trial
- Free Samsonite bag

As low as P5,499* /month or P65,999 for cash payment with Vibe/myDSL plan

PLDT CYBERMADNESS. Available in over 100 PC stores nationwide.

MANILA	
PC Corner - Arcero St.	5264546
Total Quality Machines (TQM) - Malate	5264503
Think PC - Taft Ave	5363245
QUEZON CITY	
ARX Computer Center - SM North Edsa	4262216 to 18
ARX Computer Center - Robinson's Galleria	6333928
PC Corner - Gilmore	7231718
PC Access - Gilmore	7219377 or 80
PC Corner - Loyola Heights	4262725
PC Corner - West Avenue	9212005
PC Madness - Aurora Bldg.	4100051
Astral Data Systems - Quezon Ave.	3728913 to 18
CnO Computers & Options - SM North Edsa	4265669
Complink Marketing - Robinson's Galleria	6329896
Complink Marketing - SM North Edsa	9209140
Villman Computers Systems - Cubao	9122785
Villman Computers Systems - Katipunan	4331224
Villman Computers Systems - West Ave.	3739872
Villman Computers Systems - Pag-asa	4568080
Villman Computers Systems - SM City Edsa	9267322
PC Quarter - SM North Edsa	4538738

MUNTINLUPA	
E-HUB Computers & Accessories (Complink Marketing)	7550140
SAN JUAN	
PC Corner - Virramall	7267858
PC Quarter - Virramall	7211051
MAKATI	
PC Corner - Glorietta 2	8930630
Complink Marketing - Park Square 1	8931489
Villman Computers Systems - Ayala Ave.	8922222
Villman Computers Systems - Paseo	8151986
Villman Computers Systems - Arnaiz	8434371
MANDALUYONG	
ARX Computer Center - Shangrila Edsa	6350068 to 69
PC Corner - Shaw Blvd.	5355231
PC Corner - SM Megamall	6318786
Complink Marketing - Shangrila Edsa	6374444
Complink Marketing - SM Megamall	6373988
Villman - SM Megamall	6830532 to 33
LAS PIÑAS	
PC Corner - Zapote	7724641
PC Corner - SM South Mall	7223416
E.F. Hands-On Computer - Pamplonas	8738866
Complink Marketing - SM Southmall	8019908
PARAÑAQUE	
ARX Computer Center - SM Super Center	8208694
Complink Marketing - Citimall	5129708
RVChanco Computers - BF Homes	8075298
CAVITE	
Complink Marketing - SM Cavite	(046) 4177761 to 63
AlphaStike Computer Center - Dasmariñas	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Imus	(046) 5150795
Matcom Trading Company - Rosario	(046) 4380652
LAGUNA	
Tomtronics - San Pedro	(049) 8086996
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Calamba	(049) 8346368
QUEZON	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Lucena	(042) 6603899

BICOL	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Naga	(054) 8118483
PAMPANGA	
PCDG - Angeles City	(045) 8885614
PANGASINAN	
PCDG - Dagupan	(075) 5152880
Maya Emporium - Dagupan	(075) 5157969
LA UNION	
PC4Me Computer Shop - San Fernando	(072) 8882249
BAGUIO	
PCDG - Abanao Square Mall	(074) 4463262
PCKing Computer & Printing Center - Bombay Bazar	(074) 4445540
PC Corner - Session Rd.	
1:23 Computer and Printing Center - Session Rd.	(074) 4464830
Laser Marketing - Mabini	(074) 4425854
Laser Marketing - Central Mall	(074) 4449810
CEBU	
Compumasters - Cebu City	(032) 4120955 to 59
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Mandaue	(032) 3462926
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Ayala Center	(032) 2325355
Andersons PC - Osmeña	(032) 2541430
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2530602
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2314369
Electroworld Cebu- SM Branch - SM City	(032) 3452787 to 89
Electroworld Cebu- Ayala Branch - Ayala Center	(032) 3452787 to 89
BACOLOD	
Jegabytes Computer Center - Libertad-Margarita Ext.	(034) 4337763
Jegabytes Computer Center - Robinson's Place	(034) 4412880
BCG Computers - Yap Compound	(034) 4342527 to 32
ILOILO	
Electroworld Iloilo - SM City	(033) 3204832 telefax
DAVAO	
Electroworld Davao - SM City	(082) 2210119 telefax
Electroworld Davao - R. Magsaysay	(082) 2210119
Computer World Davao - A. Bonifacio	(082) 2213753
Digital Interface - J. P. Rizal Ave.	(082) 2211256
Columbia Davao - Manuel Roxas	(082) 2211475

** Prices may vary for Visayas & Mindanao
They are also subject to change without prior notice
***Lap top packages include modem & LAN

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1782, Series of 2003.

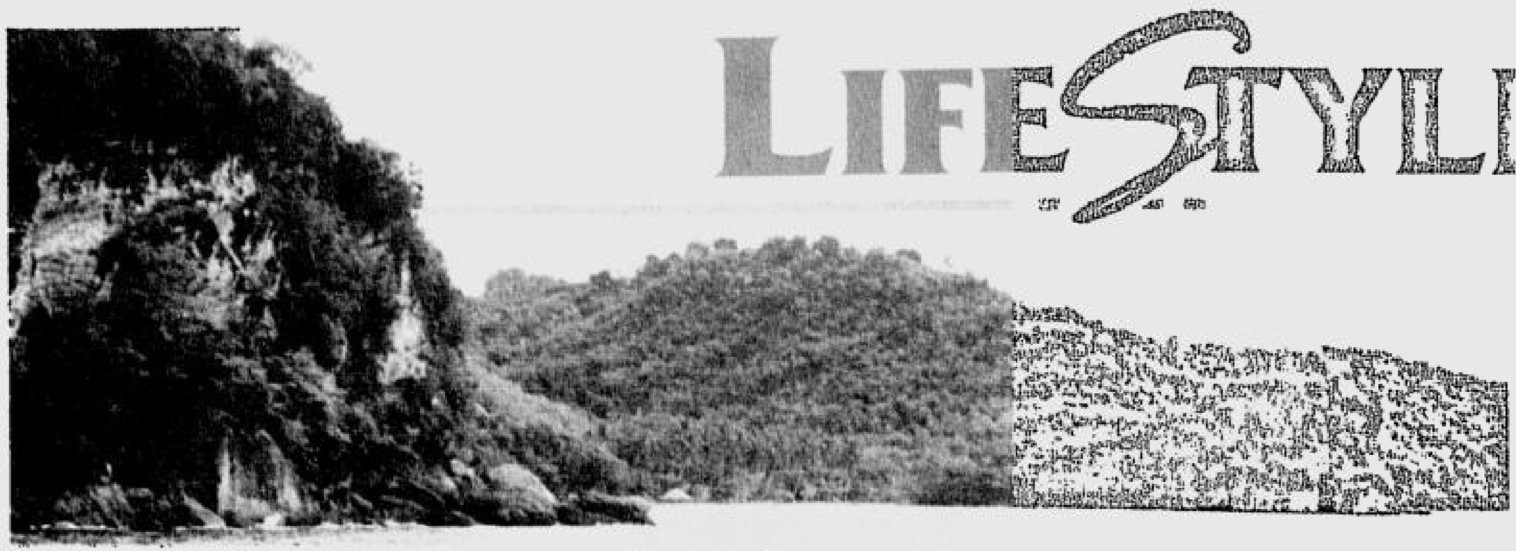
PLDT 75 THINK ahead

In cooperation with the biggest names in the PC industry:
Microsoft NEO Canon intel TREND MICRO AOC citibank

PLDT convergence@home

For more info on Cybermadness, visit www.cybermadness.com.ph or call PC Mania at 7260707. For inquiries on PLDT Internet subscriptions, call 171 or visit www.pldtdsl.com or www.pldtvibe.com

LIFESTYLE Nature



Ugly duckling of a tree has inner beauty

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

AS TREES go, mangroves, which grow in and around brackish water, are not exactly glamour gals.

Not nearly as tall as their cousins in the jungles, they are not stately, graceful and often quite lacking in looks. They don't have majestic crowns and, with root-like appendages growing out of branches, some of them appear to be extra-terrestrial beings in camouflage.

Even the *nilad* which, according to historical accounts, grew abundantly along the banks of the Pasig River and lent its name to the country's capital city, isn't much to look at, distinguished only by the fact that it is always leaning drunkenly against another tree or whatever structure or natural growth would support it.

The mangroves' common names do not evoke awe the way *narra*, *molave*, mahogany and *kamagong* do. In fact, with monikers like *piapi*, *kalapini*, *buta-buta*, *putat*, *kalumbibit*, *binusisi* and *gapas-gapas*, they seem to have been named by children who drew inspiration from doggerel.

But for all their funny looks and even funnier names, mangroves are as valuable as any of Earth's natural resources, and their extinction is a serious threat to humankind's own survival.

"DUNGON LATE" is a good example of why mangroves may seem strange. After several years, the trunk rots and becomes hollow, looking like the aftermath of a fire, but the tree remains alive, with branches growing out of the thick outer layer of the trunk.

As natural windbreaks, they temper the storms' fury to make them less destructive when they hit land and protect coastal communities from tidal currents. Mangroves serve as nursery and sources of food for marine life and provide raw materials for some important pharmaceutical preparations, showing promise of even greater contributions to medical science. People have used them as sources of building materials, food and fuel.

And now Mirant Philippines Corporation, through its corporate social responsibility arm, the Mirant Philippines Foundation, is enlisting the mangroves' help in another major undertaking, easing the adverse consequences of global warming resulting from, among other things, the accumulation of gases in the atmosphere that trap heat, causing an effect similar to that in a greenhouse—hence the term greenhouse gases—and raising Earth's average temperature.

Cleaning the air

As trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, one of the major greenhouse gases, Mirant has launched the Carbon Sink project that will reforest 150 hectares of mangrove forests, as well as 150 hectares of upland forests, in Pagbilao, Quezon.

The town hosts the company's 700-megawatt coal-fired power plant that supplies the energy requirements of a large swath of Luzon.

Undertaken in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Quezon Ecosystems Research and Development Center and the municipal governments of Pagbilao and neighboring Padre Burgos, the mangrove rehabilitation project is significant for one other thing—the stretch to be reforested is host to 47 different species, reputedly the second most diverse in the world.

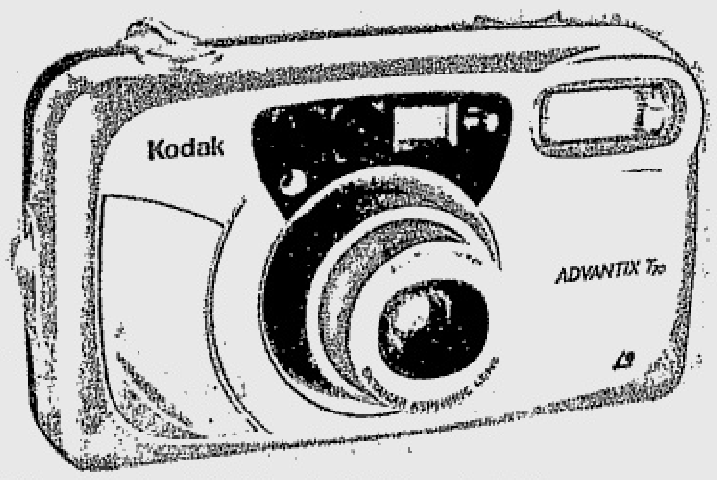
The rehabilitation project is not only revitalizing Pagbilao's forests. It is also providing supplementary income to local residents. Edgardo

UGLY/ D4

AVAILABLE
50 FT. YACHT
EXCELLENT CONDITION
FOR INSPECTION & SEA TRIAL
Call: Myrline 8904506
(office hrs.)

Stop hiding... Start showing UP!
Have a BREAST Augmentation
TRUST ONLY THE EXPERT CARE BY A QUALIFIED COSMETIC SURGEON
Enhance COSMETIC SURGERY & SKIN CARE CENTER
Noselift • Bust lift • Liposuction • Dermabrasion • Double eyelid
Eyebag removal • Scar revision • Varicose vein • Warts removal [painless] • Peeling and body bleaching • Facial treatment
THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA Annex Bldg., Basement Level Tel. No.: 920-9205 FREE CONSULTATION! CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED

Weigh Less Center MENDÉZ MEDICAL GROUP
Creamy white complexion that can make you feel like a star.
Colour Me Beautiful
Lose weight with a friend at a PRICE of ONE with the New Weight Loss Program for Two.
Dr. Joel Mendez
SERVICES: • WEIGHT LOSS • BOTOX • WEIGHT GAIN • ROSY PEEL for Rosier Cheeks - Skin Whitening, Anti-Aging • COSMETIC SURGERY - Liposuction, Breast Augmentation, Noselift, Treatment of VARICOSE VEINS • WARTS REMOVAL • SPA
Please call for more details
ROCES 3733365/66 • 3730766 • 3718886/87 • 3742437 • BINONDO 2454860/63
GLORIETTA 8402128 • WESTIN PHIL. PLAZA 5515555 LOC.1587 • BUENDIA 8956918/ 8958079
The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City • B-3 3/F New Farmers, Cubao Q.C.
Dona Teresa Ave., cor. St. Joseph St., Angeles City • MEGAMALL • ALABANG • PAMPANGA • DAGUPAN
Soon to Open Weigh Less Cavite
Now Open • Westin • Glorietta • Weigh Less Salon & Spa Buendia
FARMERS • ANGELES Body & Face GREENBELT BRANCH
WEIGH LESS CENTER PAMPANGA ANNEX BLDG., SM CITY, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA • TEL. (045) 9616845
Dr. Joel Mendez is available for consultation on your health and beauty needs every Thursday from 11am to 3pm STARTING OCTOBER 16, 2003.
Website: www.weighlesscenter.net / E-mail: weighlesscenter@yahoo.com

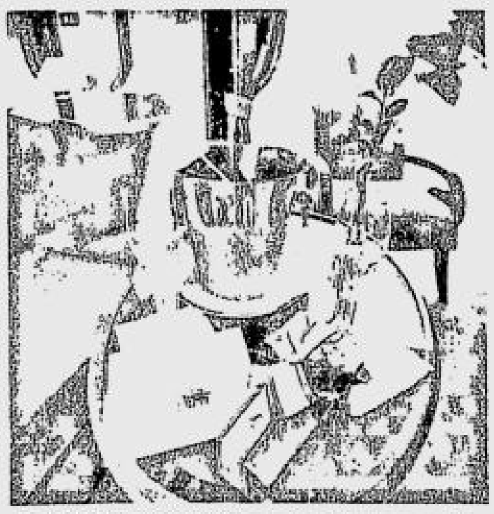


P500 OFF
on your new Kodak Advantix
When you trade in your old camera
Mechanics:
1. Customers can get a P500 discount on Kodak Advantix T20, T40, T60 and T70 when they trade in a traditional camera.
2. Only one discount of P500 is applicable for each Advantix Camera purchase.
3. The Kodak Advantix Camera comes with a Kodak Advantix film, batteries, camera case, and a one-year warranty.
4. Cameras for trade-in may be of any brand, model (working or non-working) except for one-time-use-cameras.
5. Promo period is from October 1 - December 31, 2003 only.
Kodak ADVANTIX System
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2771 series of 2003.
Kodak Express SM Department Store Bacoor, Bicutan, CDO, Cebu, Cubao, Davao, Fairview, Harrison, Iloilo, Sucat, Makati, Mandurriao, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Lucena, Baguio, Marilao • Kameraworld Greenbelt, SM City Harrison Plaza, SM Megamall, Alimall, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-la Plaza, Tutuban Center Mall, Robinsons Ermita, Waltermart Makati, SM Manila, SM Sucat, West Tekkto, Stopover Plaza, Gaisano Country Mall, Gaisano Mall, SM Cebu, Gaisano Bogo, SM City Pampanga, Metropoint, SM Bicutan, Robinsons Dept Store Galleria, Alabang Town Center, SM Southmall, Metropolis, SM Fairview, Lipa, Festival Supermall, Rustan's Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Place Imus, SM Bacoor, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Cosman, Despont, Facilities Center, JRC Shaw, Shell House, SM City Iloilo, BF Sucat, Target Mall, Pasong Tamo, Herrera, Pearl Plaza, Congressional, National Bookstore Quezon Ave • Kameraworld Photolab Inc. Lucena 1, Lucena 2, San Pablo 1, San Pablo 2, Calamba Central, Calamba Annex • General Photo Express Glorietta 3, Makati Cinema Square, Greenbelt • Floro Blas Printing Alabang, Angela, Herrera, Luneta • Photo Kingdom Visayas Ave., Anonas, Dau, Life Homes, Gen. Trias, Pasig, Murphy, Mayon, Rocos, Treco Marquez, Nac, Intrepid, Tayuman, Tanza, Valenzuela, Suki Mart, Indang • Photo Dynasty Mangagan • Goodlook Photo Center Muntinlupa • CVM San Pedro, Muntinlupa • Metalco Alfaro, Amberland, Cityland Makati, Makati Ave., Sagittarius, Shaw, Tordesillas, Ayala • Island Photo Aristocrat Naga, Enterprise Center, Fairview, Farmers Plaza, Festival Mall, Gamboa, Glorietta, Greenhills, Herrera, LCC Naga, Starmall, Park Square, Quiapo, SM Bacoor, SM Bicutan, SM Centerpoint, SM Harrison, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM North EDSA, SM Pampanga, SM Southmall, Sucat, Valero, Annapolis, The Podium, CDO, SM Davao, SM Mandurriao, Iloilo, P. Lopez Cebu, SM City Cebu • Kodak Image Center CDO • Effects Photo Baymart, Lipa • 60 Minute Photo San Pedro Davao, Abojuela, Fuente Osmena, Ayala Center • 3R Imaging Greenbelt • 3R Prints Plus Karuhatan • Fox Express Foto Dian, Manalas, Paco Paz • Photo Depot Glorietta, Magic Star Mall, F. Tanedo, RCBC Plaza • South Photo Alabang, Guguarlo, Malolos, Sta. Rosa, Valenzuela • A.B. Square Abanao Square • Colors Photo Express Batangas, San Fernando • CTL Developing Center Marikina • Ermita Photo Developing Center • JP Color Lab Angeles • Morayta Developing Center • Panaderos Developing Center • New Kalentong Developing Center • Dagupan Color Express • Ledesma Photo Developing Center • JSLO Photo Express • Don Joaquin Photo Express • OAE Photo Express

Exude the radiance of a screen goddess.
If you can't be exactly that, you can at least look like one. At Clara International, we take you a step towards that. With effective, all natural treatments that enhance your natural 'god-given' beauty, without the pains and bruises of surgery.
You are assured of high-end service with competent therapists to take care of you:
• 27 years in existence with 60 branches throughout Southeast Asia, Sweden, Switzerland & the United States
• Imports raw materials from Switzerland for its own product line
• Backed up by a Malaysian Team of Research & Development
• Individual, hygienic consultation and treatment rooms
• Revolutionary non-surgical technology
• Holistic beauty therapy at a reasonable price
CLARA INTERNATIONAL Where beauty begins... naturally.
Call now for a free consultation! 374-0974 • 374-6154
Unit 1-S 2/F, 1328 Sunshine Blvd. Plaza, Quezon Ave. cor. Sct. Santiago, Q.C.

IT'S TUESDAY! TO MAKE YOUR CHICKEN DISH MORE SCRUMPTIOUS, FRY THIS!
McCORMICK Season'n Fry Chicken Coating Mix NEW! Crispy Seasoned
A Dish So Simple Is Made Special... Everyday!
McCORMICK
The surprise is in the spice.

THE GANG at the captain's dinner: Johanna Ableidinger, F&B manager Adam Perchtold and Bimbo Gapud; (back) Pepper Teehankee and Alex Van Hagen



COMPLIMENTS of the captain in your cabin suite. Moet & Chandon champagne, Beluga or Sevruga caviar, a box of Godiva chocolates and—for an extra dash of class—a single orchid stem in a Baccarat crystal vase

CAPTAIN'S bridge: Second officer Pawel Makdsa and our Italian captain Gennaro Arma

WAITERS on board: (from left) Arman Macarolia, Serny Francisco, Michael Yadao, Pio Tam, Oleg Lutter (Estonian), Mario L.C. Samson, Edwin Ayucan, Gally Lopez, Henly Tacud, Toniper Pariñas and our Turkish connection, Yasar Kibar (seated)

A 'kababayan' in Picton, Cindy Crawford in Auckland

Part 2

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

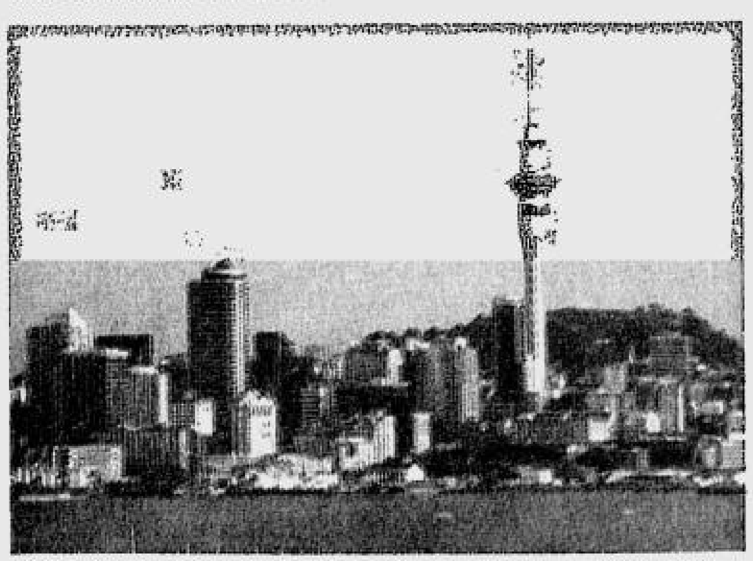
On the right cruise ship, New Zealand is the perfect holiday destination

CHRISTCHURCH is a 20-minute drive from Littleton where we docked. The beautiful city is laid out like an English university town around a gothic cathedral with gorgeous English country gardens. No wonder it's often called "the most English city outside England." We decided that a great way to see the South Island's largest city was by the historic tramway, a 2.5-km loop around central Christchurch. From the main square, we were brought to the shopping promenades and art galleries, passing many super hip alfresco cafés. Then we were whisked off to the neo-gothic Arts Centre, theaters, studios and crafts workshops, and around the eye-catching Georgian cafés and houses on New Regent Street where we got off to stroll down gorgeous parks and avenues. The tram is really the best way to visit all the "must-see" attractions.

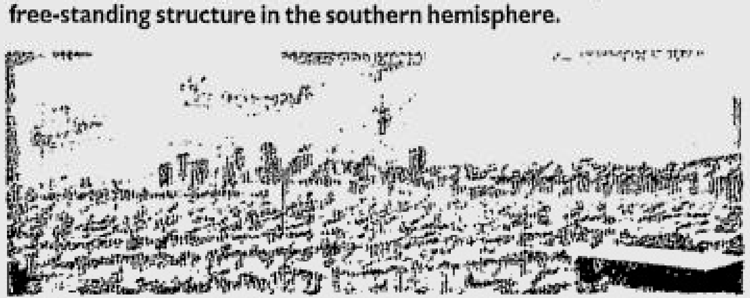
One of the locals explained: "Christchurch is a very special city for us. It has a wealth of attractions, festivals, entertainment, great restaurants and night spots, plus our heritage and culture combined, making it a wonderful place to live, work and spend time in." Well, I definitely agreed with him.

We strolled along the beautiful Avon River, which runs into the center of the city. Christchurch's gorgeous Botanic Gardens is among the Top Ten in the world.

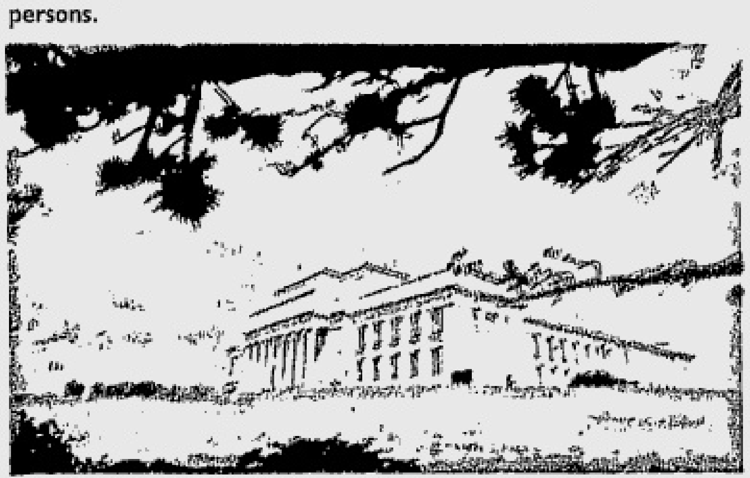
THE WATERFRONT entrance that brings you to where fabulous sailboats from all over the world are docked.



THE SYMBOLIC Sky Tower of Auckland, seen at sunset, is the tallest free-standing structure in the southern hemisphere.



HAURAKI GULF: Auckland has one of the highest rates of yacht ownership in the world, with a rate of one boat for every four persons.



THE IMPRESSIVE Auckland museum is a magnificent neo-classical building with a view of the city.

Pinoy resto in New Zealand

The third day of our fabulous cruise brought us to the nice little town of Picton at the northern tip of New Zealand's South Island. This is where people catch the ferries linking North and South Islands.

Picton has a population of only about a thousand and only 12 streets but, believe it or not, among the less than a dozen restaurants is the Filipino DJ's Restaurant and Sports Bar at the corner of High and Dublin Streets. Outside is a big sign, "Mabuhay Kabayan," as discovered by **Bimbo G.**, natch. Why a Filipino resto here? Well, almost all cargo ships bringing supplies to the South Island dock here—and most of the ships' crews are Filipinos!

In fact, Derek, the Filipino who owns the place with his wife, Gina, was a seaman before retiring in Picton. The locals love the place and all Filipino seamen who come to Picton's Port Marlborough patronize this local legend.

On a speedboat, we explored some of the nearby islands. We met Dutch campers on a two-week trek in one of the farthest parts of Picton. On our way to the lodges and camp site, we passed a salmon farm, saw seals along some rocky shores and enjoyed the antics of a couple of playful dolphins near our boat.

Back on our ship, we prepared for Captain Genarro Arma's farewell reception, a formal black-tie/long-gown affair with cocktails at the Viennese Lounge on deck 6 and dinner dance at the chic restaurant.

Food, glorious food

The dinner menu was mind-boggling. We started with cold appetizers: Layered Blinis with Caviar and Marinated Jumbo Prawns Salad, Grilled Mediterranean Vegetable Terrine, Arugula Oil and Crispy Focaccia, Assorted Chilled Citrus Fruit Cup.

Then the hot appetizers: to-die-for Sautéed Fresh Foie Gras with Apple and Prune Compote, Clear Oxtail Soup with Vegetables and Sherry with cheese sticks or Billy by Creamy Mussel Soup, or both, if you wanted.

Then Fresh from the Garden that meant Salsify with Pesto on Lettuce Julienne salad. The main courses were—hold your breath —Homard Roti, Le Coffre Traite comme un Parmentier, Roasted Maine Lobster Tail mixed with mashed potatoes, "Parmentier" style. The lobster was uniquely prepared-first roasted, then mixed with mashed potatoes and served in the original shell. *Quel plaisir!*

Fillet of Beef Wellington with Sauce Perigueux, Beef Tenderloin and Mushroom Duxelles baked in Puff Pastry, Fresh Vegetable and Chateau Potatoes followed. Then, Roast Quail stuffed with Truffle Mousseline and Glazed Vegetables, Sultana Raisins Couscous and Port Wine Flavored Quail Jus; and finally, Risotto con Capesante Anatra Affumicata, Scallops and Smoked Duck Magret Risotto were served. Vegetarians got Cannelloni Pasta filled with ricotta cheese, spinach and tomato sauce.

After the fabulous dinner, we headed for the bar and had drinks with Captain Arma. I flaked out first while **Alex, Bimbo** and **Pepper** stayed on. The last to leave the bar was Pepper. So what else is new?

One of a kind ship

We cruised the Tasman Sea to get to our last stop—fantastic Auckland.

As we sailed, we toured the one of a kind ship, with mega concierge **Enzo Carraro** as our guide.

In the art of cruising, "small is beautiful," according to super seasoned cruisers, **Beth Tioseco** and **H.B. Gapud**. This we confirmed during the tour. The Silver Whisper, twin ship of the Silver Shadow, is 28,000 tons but has only 382 passengers (although it can carry three times that number).

Manned by almost 300 officers and crew members, it has 194 suites, the most modest the 267-sq ft Vista Suite. Our cabins, the Verandah Suites, have 345 sq ft of space. The largest rooms, the three Grand Suites, each measured 1,435 sq ft. They are grand two-bedroom apartments with everything you can think of and with a panoramic view of the ocean.

We explored seven passenger decks. The Silver Whisper has three dining venues plus room service, seven bars and lounges, including the Cigar Lounge, specially designed by Davidoff, and the Champagne Bar, done by Moet et Chandon, no less. It has a library, two boutiques, casino, card room, computer center, beauty salon and fitness center, a heated outdoor swimming pool with two whirlpools, and five guest elevators. Stationery is personalized. There are two Bulgari boutiques—one exclusively for its own exquisite jewelry and the other carrying a selection of designer jewelry, clothes, perfumes, Silversea souvenirs, toiletries and convenience items.

After a day at sea in uncompromising luxury, we docked in Auckland, one of the most beautiful harbors in the world. From the balcony of our suite, we could almost touch the balconies of the sleek Auckland Hilton, opened in time for the America's Cup 2003.

PAL's super efficient crew on flight 209 flying from Manille to Sydney: Cricket Delgado, flight purser Jun Mangahas, Bibam de Jesus and Chin Cailles

IT'S hard to beat PAL's business class service with its fab crew on our flight back to Manille on PR 210: F/S Miguel Vibar, FP Rita Jhocson, FA Regina Chua and FA Ana Marie Han

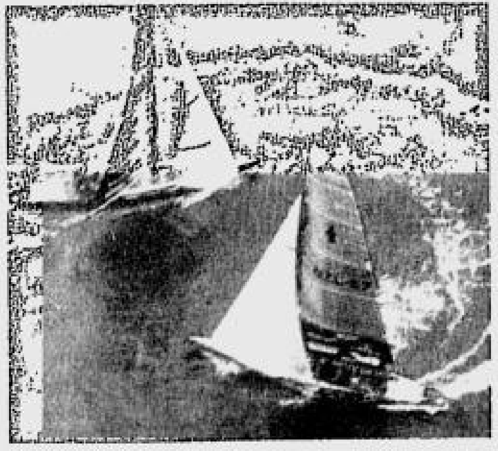
PAL's economy class top crew members: F/A Cora Francisco, Elvira Reyes and F/S Jose Castillo

Partying in Auckland

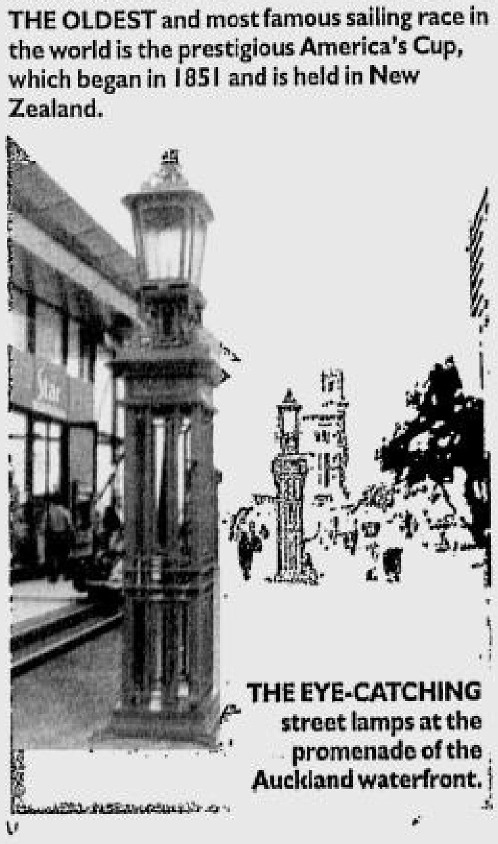
We arrived in Auckland on the eve of the opening of the premier yachting competition so it was party time! New Zealand's largest city, which is on the North Island, was hosting both the much-revered, *tres, tres* prestigious America's Cup Regatta and the world-renowned Louis Vuitton Cup. Even Cindy Crawford was in town to party for Omega!

Nine challengers representing six countries vied for the LV Cup, won by Alinghi, which earned the right to race the title holder, Kiwi, New Zealand's team. Well, we all know that, in the best of nine races, Alinghi won the much-coveted America's Cup!

Auckland is proud to be the only city outside the United States to host America's Cup for the second consecutive time, in 2000 and 2003. Known as the City of Sails, Auckland has the highest per capita boat ownership in the world.



THE OLDEST and most famous sailing race in the world is the prestigious America's Cup, which began in 1851 and is held in New Zealand.



THE EYE-CATCHING street lamps at the promenade of the Auckland waterfront.

We booked a city tour from our fabi Auckland Hilton Hotel before leaving early the following morning for Sydney.

Our tour of the world's largest Polynesian city included a drive along Queen's Street, the Golden Mile of Auckland, and Auckland University. At Harbour Bridge we had spectacular views of Auckland Harbour and the yacht marina. We stopped at the summit of Mt. Eden, a dormant volcano once home to an ancient Maori tribe, for the breathtaking 360° views of the city; and the Auckland War Memorial Museum, where we learned about the country's Maori and European history. The tour was capped with a drive through Paritai Drive, one of the southern hemisphere's most exclusive residential districts.

Brief but beautiful, our Kiwi experience was nothing short of awesome. Certainly one of the most beautiful countries in the world, New Zealand and its cities of Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland were the perfect backdrop to our Silversea experience aboard the Silver Whisper that enabled us to reach the pinnacle of excellence.

Best of the best

Of the many cruise lines in the world, only six have received six stars to be officially labeled "ultra-luxury." And of the six, Silversea has won all three awards for an ultra luxury cruise liner: the Conde Nast Traveller magazine award as No. 1 Small Ship Cruise Line for the past seven years in the American edition and the past four years in the British edition; and the World's Best Small Ship Cruise Line from Travel & Leisure magazine also for the past four years. The Robb Report named Silversea Cruises the Best of the Best Cruise Lines, while the United Kingdom's Daily Telegraph named it "the Best Cruise Company."

We thank Cruise Ship Travel Center president and cruise connoisseur par excellence, tall, fashionable **Beth Trinidad-Tioseco**, the Philippine general sales agent of Silversea Cruises; as well as our very own Philippine Airlines president, **Avelino Zapanta**, and VP for corporate communications **Rolly Estabillo** for flying us Mabuhay Class to Sydney.

For the rest of 2003, Silversea will offer Mediterranean and Baltic Seas, Trans-Oceanic, African, South Pacific, Indian Ocean, Canada and New England voyages.

Call **Mary Ann Cinco** or **Marites Jayme** at 7260416, 7264271 and 7445968 to 69.

Check out Silversea! It could be the start of a dream come true. Yes, *palanggas*, New Zealand is 100-percent pure, with its spectacular scenery and super warm welcome, the perfect holiday destination.

Nudity is boring

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

EVERY now and then, for as long as we can remember, we read or hear the news that the movie board of censors (euphemistically called the "Movie and Television Review and Classification Board") has prevented the showing of films for being "indecent" or "pornographic." We also often hear of the police raiding or closing down nightclubs for showing naked dancers, and confiscating magazines and tabloid newspapers for indecent pictures.

I cannot help but be amused by such dramatic but actually useless efforts. They remind me of the never-ending cat-and-mouse cartoon stories. The mouse comes out whenever the cat is not looking.

And do you know the real reason why this so-called pornography, indecency or immorality in the entertainment industry can never be eradicated? Because it is based on a wrong premise or wrong assumption. The police, the church and other holier-than-thou moral crusaders believe that if they continue to be vigilant and prevent the so-called indecent materials from being displayed or shown in public, the perpetrators or producers of such shows will stop making them. Wrong!

You see, these shows, publications or activities are based on sex. And sex is such a strong and natural instinct or drive in humans that suppressing its gratification or expression will only lead to a stronger desire.

One cannot suppress or deny a natural force without dire or negative consequences. It's like the strong flow of a river that you try to stop by building a dam. The longer you keep the dam, the stronger the force of the current becomes until the dam finally bursts.

I have never really considered nudity in man or woman to be immoral or indecent by itself. And I could not understand why certain quarters, specially conservative religious groups, think it is. After all, weren't Adam and Eve completely naked in the Garden of Eden? Is there anything indecent that God has created?

I am not advocating that we go out on the streets completely naked. That's not my point. It would be impractical, unhealthy and improper. I am merely referring to the exaggerated concern about the showing of naked human bodies in movies and other entertainment media.

I believe that the more such showing is suppressed by government authorities and religious groups, the stronger the desire to see them becomes. What is prohibited and hidden is always more exciting to the human senses than what is fully exposed and freely available.

Sometimes nudity in film, television and print media is passed on as expressions of art. There is a thin line between pornography and artistry. What is artistic in one culture may be pornographic in others. And within a country, standards of morality and decency may also differ.

Censor children's shows

Although there certainly are differences in cultural orientation and values among nations, the essential or basic human nature itself remains the same throughout various cultures of the world. Perhaps the Philippines can learn from the experiences of other countries. How do they handle this question of pornography, decency and morality?

In many countries of the western world, they have separated what can be shown to adults from those shown to minors. There is strict censorship of what can be shown to those below 18 years of age and almost none for those for adults.

Even adults tire of watching naked bodies after a while. Remember what happened when the topless bars of San Francisco were first introduced? They were mobbed. Then when they lost steam, the bar owners tried bottomless. These, too, soon went out of fashion. Almost all the topless bars closed down after a few years. They could not attract enough customers to remain in business. Mere nudity becomes a big bore!

On the streets of Scandinavia, the home of liberated sex and free love, where prostitution is legal, completely naked women can be seen displaying their naked wares in see-through glass windows or cages. Only first time tourists and sex-hungry Asians from Catholic countries are spotted ogling them. Most local passersby completely ignore them. And one can see the bored and pained look in these women's eyes.

In these countries, one can also find nudist colonies where those who want to live as close to nature as possible can do so without the prying eyes of the press and the sexually curious public. In pictures of nudists that I have seen, I have not noticed any man having an erection. This means there's no more excitement in seeing naked women and being near them.

Indian temple of ecstasy

In India, there is a very interesting temple at Khajurajo called the Temple of Ecstasy. In the outer part of this temple stands statues of naked men and women depicting various positions of sexual intercourse. At first glance, such statues of explicit sexual acts may appear shockingly indecent and pornographic. One wonders why, for heaven's sake, these were placed in a temple of worship! Temples are supposed to be places of prayer, of divine communication, not of immorality and indecency. Why were these sexual acts displayed there?

But then one quickly realizes the reason for such an unusual public portrayal of what normally is a private act. The answer is not hard to find if one is a serious student of human nature. Human desire for sex is very strong and it becomes stronger the more it is repressed. The Indian masters who had these statues made knew that, by satisfying man's innate curiosity about sex and search for sexual knowledge, you dissipate its power. You are no longer governed or controlled by it. In effect, you allow its natural expression. Once satisfied, the disciple can then go about the more serious business of communing with the divine.

Not until he has satisfied his basic instincts can he ascend to the highest spiritual level. So he must first pass through the sensual part before he can proceed to the spiritual path.

The same basic philosophy should hold true when it comes to film and literary censorship. The more depictions of sex are suppressed and repressed, the more curious people become and the desire grows stronger. So we will forever play the game of cat and mouse with sexy stars and other daring entertainers.

Antiquated laws

But if we amend and redefine our antiquated laws to allow adults to see whatever form of entertainment they want, as long as these do not physically harm others or violate the rights of other people, then we stand a chance of developing a mature audience.

I would like to see a law passed removing all forms of censorship of all adult movies, literature and art. Those for children may be censored or restricted because they are still impressionable. But if we don't remove censorship for adults, they will never grow up. They will remain children forever curious about how a particular movie star's pubic hair or nipple and getting an erection at the slightest glimpse of a woman's cleavage.

When will we ever wake up to this simple and fundamental fact of human nature? Need we ask?

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Tel. nos.: 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

In nudist colonies, there's no more excitement in seeing naked women and being near them

---

Haribon holds bird watching and boat cruise in Pampanga

THIS OCTOBER, get up close and personal with some of the country's diverse bird species through the Haribon Foundation's Candaba bird watching activity and Pampanga River boat cruise.

The event, scheduled on Oct. 11, will serve as a means of providing the public, tourists, researchers and members of the academe with useful information on the richness of wetlands. It is part of Haribon's year-round outdoor activities designed to give participants an appreciation of our wealth of biodiversity, while emphasizing the urgency of species and habitat protection.

First time bird watchers will learn such basic skills as determining equipment and materials needed, the code of conduct observed, bird identification, their migration and flyway concepts and the role of bird watchers in conservation. Complementing this activity is the Pampanga River boat cruise, a three-hour adventure that will take participants to a variety of tourist attractions like Apalit, San Simon, San Luis, Candaba and Arayat on the upstream and Masantol, Macabebe and Calumpit on the downstream.

These twin activities jumpstart the First Haribon Bird Festival set in October 2004 also at the Candaba Swamp. The festival aims to make the public aware of the issues and threats facing the area and the people and species that it supports.

Fee is P1,000 for Haribon members and P2,000 for non- members. Expenses covered include transportation, breakfast and lunch, the river cruise, services of resource persons and guides and the use of bird books/guides. Deadline for registration and payment is on Oct. 8. Call Claribelle Bautista or Lemuel Ponce at 920-7430/434-8237/ 436-4363 or e-mail act@haribon.org.ph or mbeth_baril@haribon.org.ph.

Marie-France & Facial Care Centre with Maxi-Media International Present "Martin Nievera Onstage Again: The Road to Vegas" Concert

Marie-France Bodyline and Facial Care Centre, the country's leading slimming and skincare centers, together with Maxi-Media International, recently presented another spectacular show from the Concert King himself!

The highly successful "Martin Nievera Onstage Again: The Road to Vegas" concert was staged to jam-packed audiences last September 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27, 2003 at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makati City. The Concert King regaled the crowd with his popular ballads, hit songs from famous Broadway musicals and, of course, the upbeat tunes of Las Vegas music favorites.

MARTIN NIEVERA
Onstage again

For 18 years in the Philippines, Marie-France stands above the rest and continues its success with its no-strain, no-pain slimming programme. It's the superior choice for women who want to slim down effortlessly and shape up effectively to reveal a sexier body.

On the other hand, Facial Care Centre is now celebrating 21 years as the pioneer in the skincare industry. Through its latest, most effective skincare treatments and products, women can experience "reverse ageing" with skin that's healthier, younger-looking, wrinkle-and-blemish-free.

For more details on our slimming and skincare services, contact the following numbers for an appointment to a free consultation: (Marie-France) 8161262 / (Facial Care Centre) 8161259.

Martin Nievera with Marie-France and Facial Care Centre promo girls at "The Road To Vegas" concert.

Take Charge Doc! MEDICard

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are all doctors in an accredited hospital accredited?

No, not all doctors in an accredited hospital are accredited providers. In every affiliated medical facility, MEDICard has set a team of doctors (medical service team-MST) to efficiently manage the healthcare of its members. MEDICard ensures that the MST is composed of well-trained doctors and that each field of specialization is well represented.

Meet your MEDICard Team

This Diplomate to the Philippine Board of Surgery has been one of the recent additions to the team of MEDICard service providers. Dr. Rouel M. Azores specializes in the field of General Surgery. He is a Medicine graduate from De la Salle University who took his residency training for his specialization in Medical Center Manila (MCM). Doc Rouel is also a Fellow to the Philippine Society for General Surgeons and a member of the Philippine Medical Association. Members may visit him for consultations at his clinic in MCM, Room M-14, every Mondays, from 3 to 5 PM and Wednesdays from 10 to 11 AM.

Contract Signing

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) Employees Provident Fund recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard effective October 01. (Seated L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.) & Dr. Nicanor Montoya (Pres.), with COMELEC's Comm. Resurreccion Borra (Chairman of the Board) & Atty. Ruben Aguila (Legal Counsel). (Standing L-R) Lani Antiojo (Jericho Healthcare Agency), MEDICard's Bernard Zulueta (Asst. Sup.-Mktg. & Sales) & Virginia Lampa (Mktg. Asst.), COMELEC'S Dir. Estrella de Mesa (Exec. Officer), Atty. Betty Pizaña (Sec.) & Board Members Amy Oas & Doreza Moraña.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

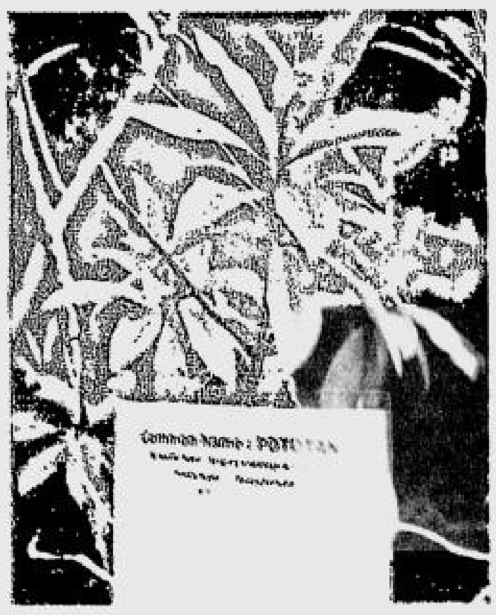
For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

Ugly duckling of a tree has inner beauty

THE NONI, or *apatot* as it is known locally and which became a sensation a couple of years ago for its reported therapeutic value, is classified as an affiliated mangrove species.



ANOTHER species that seems to have gotten its name from Visayans is "Pototan," a small tree. The name is apparently derived from the word "potot," which means short in Visayan.

MANUEL Enoveges, nursery man, counts the propagules collected by construction worker Edgardo Gutierrez.

From page D1

Gutierrez earned about P1,000 in one week of collecting *bakawan propagules*, the species' *malunggay* fruit-like structure that are propagated in the nursery for planting.

Borrowing the boat of his fisherman brother, Gutierrez, a construction worker, combs the shoreline where the *bakawan*, a mangrove species, grows.

"*Pag walang trabaho sa* construction, *binabaybay ko mula alas siyete ng umaga hanggang alas kuwatro ng hapon. Nagbabaon lang ako ng pananghalian*," he said.

With the Mirant nursery paying 25 cents per *propagule*, Manuel Enoveges, nursery man, said some collectors earn as much as P2,500 a week. Workers who prepare the small planting pots for the seedlings to grow get 20 centavos per piece.

Mirant's Eugene Vertudazo said, initially, some barangays were reluctant to participate in the project, but others immediately showed willingness to help provide the planting materials needed.

The power company and its partners have not only rehabilitated the mangrove forests but have also developed a section of it as an ecodestination area and a venue for seminars and training activities (for information, call Greggy Romualdez, Mirant public affairs manager, 5734808) where people can learn more about mangroves. A small exhibit area gives a sampling of important species.

Conserving marine life

Complementing the Carbon Sink project are the 10-hectare marine sanctuary and pilot sea grass transplantation to allow marine life populations in the area to recover. Efren Rendon, president of the Samahang Pangkalikasan at Pangkaunlaran and who has been a fisherman since 1980, said, in one year, they could see an improvement in the area. "*Bumalik na ang isda*," he said, adding high-value species like *samaral*, *talakitok* and *tanguigue* could now be found in the sanctuary.

But such progress means vigilance on the part of Rendon and his organization. The group patrols the protected area on a boat provided by Mirant and keeps away poachers. Pagbilao's local government supplies their fuel requirements.

The power company is also helping members of the organization set up fish cages where they are raising grouper commercially.

Supporting the marine sanctuary took a toll on Rendon and company's livelihood. This latest initiative makes him and his organization feel they did the right thing.

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com

DIVINE A. Balagas of the DENR-Quezon Ecosystems Research and Development Center explains how the *bakawan* propagule grows.

THE "NILAD," which gave Manila its name, is distinctive because it does not grow straight and is always leaning.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
MasterCard
My edge!
clothes from U Rustan's

A CREDIT CARD THAT GIVES ME THE EASIEST CREDIT TERMS!

BPI EDGE has the lowest interest rate among MasterCard credit cards.
What's more, I pay interest only on my outstanding balance.
And if I choose to transfer my balance from another card,
I get charged only 1% per month for a one-year term. Plus no annual fees.
I pay only a monthly membership fee so it's great on my cash flow.

BPI Edge mini-card available soon.

Another First from
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Get the BPI Edge now! Visit any BPI Express Banking Center, BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank branch or www.bpiexpressonline.com. P100-monthly membership fee is waived for the first 12 months.
Offer good from September 26, 2003 to September 30, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2723, Series of 2003.

Asean leaders sign accord for free trade zone by 2020

Story below, Col. 2

2 scientists behind MRI get Nobel for medicine

STOCKHOLM—Two scientists who played a key role in the development of an X-ray technique that allows doctors to see three-dimensional images of internal organs won the 2003 Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday.

American Paul Lauterbur and Briton Sir Peter Mansfield were recognized for their work that led to the development of

2 SCIENTISTS/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Israel to strike at enemies anywhere** WORLD/A10
- **California recall race goes down the wire** WORLD/A11
- **Senate to double judges' pay** NEWS /A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Wednesday, October 8, 2003 ★★ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 302   P15   website: www.inq7.net

SC: Ping must stand trial for 'Kuratong'

Tribunal votes 8-4; case to be re-raffled

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE KURATONG Baleleng multiple murder case hounding Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 33 others will be reopened for trial, according to the Supreme Court's final ruling on the matter.

In the 31-page en banc resolution that it issued yesterday, the tribunal also ordered that the 11 cases against Lacson be consolidated and re-raffled to one of the Quezon City special courts assigned to deal with heinous crimes.

Once the special court issues a warrant for his arrest, Lacson could be held without bail. Multiple murder is non-bailable, with death as the extreme punishment.

In the ruling written by Justice Romeo Callejo Jr., the tribunal dismissed Lacson's motion for it to reconsider its decision reviving the charges, and reiterated its position that the two-year prescription period for the revival of criminal cases could not apply in his case.

This is because, the tribunal said, Lacson failed to expressly agree to the provisional dismissal of the cases in March 1999 and to duly notify the victims' heirs of the dismissal.

The high court voted 8-4-2 against Lacson.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

SC/ A9

'Jose Pidal' running for Congress

By Juliet Javellana and Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE QUESTION is: Will votes for "Jose Pidal" be credited to him?

Ignacio Arroyo, who had come to the defense of his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, by claiming that he was the Jose Pidal who maintained secret bank accounts, has

JOSE/ A8

DI PA NGA
TAYO SIGURADO
KUNG SINO
NGA TALAGA
YAN, E...

RESPONDING COMRADES carry a wounded policeman to safety during the three-hour shootout in Camp Crame.

Not again! Jailed Abu kills 3 cops in Crame

THIS BABY Armalite was used by the escaping detainee to kill three policemen.

By Christian V. Esguerra

A BLOODY hostage drama involving a top-security inmate in Camp Crame yesterday brought fresh humiliation to the much-criticized Philippine National Police.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf member Buyungan Bungkak gunned down three policemen and wounded three other officers before he was finally killed after a three-hour operation led by the PNP chief himself, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Bungkak, 20, was one of five suspected Abu Sayyaf members arrested over two bomb attacks last year that killed at least 12 people, including a US soldier, and injured 150 others in Zamboanga City.

The shootout at Camp Crame was another embarrassment for the government as it attempts to fight a US-backed antiterror campaign. Barely three months ago, confessed Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from the same compound, along with two other Abu Sayyaf suspects. Al-Ghozi remains at large.

NOT AGAIN!/ A4

CIDG
DETAINEE

ABU SAYYAF Buyungan Bungkak in October 2002, on his first day with the CIDG (inset); and yesterday, on his last.

Ping camp says Palace pressured high court

By Christine O. Avendaño, Volt Contreras and Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Panfilo Lacson was not present at the Senate session for the second straight day yesterday but according to his lawyer, he is in the metropolis and may face the public "anytime."

Sigfrid Fortun said Lacson remained "in Metro Manila" because his client's number still registered on his mobile phone when the latter phoned him earlier in the day about the Supreme Court ruling and the opposition senator's legal options.

"I think there is no basis to speculate that the senator will flee," Fortun said, and pointed out that Lacson did not resort to such an action at the height of the controversy over the Kuratong Baleleng killings.

Through his office in the Senate, Lacson issued a statement accusing Malacañang of pressuring the high court.

He said he was not surprised at the ruling affirming the tribunal's April 2 decision ordering the reopening of the multiple-murder case.

"The fact that [President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel] Arroyo has inside information on the Supreme Court ruling even though he is in faraway Saudi Arabia is an undeniable proof of Malacañang's hand in the high tribunal's decision to have me placed behind bars," the senator said.

Fortun ruled out the possibility that Lacson would be immediate-

PING/ A9

RP down to No. 92 on graft list

SINGAPORE—The Philippines again fared poorly in the global corruption report by sleaze watchdog Transparency International, but at least it did not land at the bottom of the list of nations ranked among the worst in the world for graft and honesty.

Bangladesh took out the inglorious title of the most corrupt nation in the world for a third successive year with a score of just 1.3 out of 10, just edging out the African nation of Nigeria, in the survey of 133 nations by the Berlin-based TI.

The Philippines shared 92nd position with Pakistan and six other nations, including Gambia and Albania, scoring just 2.5 out of 10.

A score of 10 means a country is perceived to be "highly clean" while zero equates to "highly corrupt."

Finland, Iceland and Denmark topped the world rankings.

Asian nations generally ranked poorly in the annual survey, a compilation of 17 polls reflecting the perceptions of academics, risk

RP DOWN/ A8

Asean commits to free trade zone by 2020

By Dona Pazzibugan

BALI, Indonesia (via PLDT)—Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo and nine other Southeast Asian leaders yesterday signed a landmark accord aimed at turning their region into a giant European-style free trade zone by 2020, with several of them calling for a faster timetable to keep up with the rest of the world.

But leaders of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) avoided criticizing fellow member Myanmar (Burma) and welcomed the Burmese junta's recent decision to move democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi into house arrest from detention.

Security was tight for the annual summit on Indonesia's bomb-scarred tropical island of Bali. Troops were deployed and 13 naval vessels sailed offshore to protect the Asean leaders, who will be joined by China, Japan and South Korea and India, at their two-day meeting to endorse plans to create a single market.

Ms Macapagal said the economic blueprint, dubbed the Bali Concord II, would be "the bible of Asean relations and cooperation" in the years to come. The plan envisions a single market eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers within an economic grouping encompassing 500 million people

ASEAN/ A4

Bush designates RP 'a major US non-Nato ally'

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush has designated the Philippines "a major US non-Nato ally," establishing the legal foundation for broadening US military and security aid to the country as well as bilateral cooperation in the war on terror.

Senior Philippine military officials hailed Bush's announcement, saying the grant of such a status would ensure the continuous flow of US weapons and substantial military aid to the country, which has been beset by a communist insurgency and a Moro separatist rebellion.

"It will have benefits in terms of bigger access to military supplies and excess defense articles. It will give us priority in the access to American equipment and funding for security programs. We'll be on top of the list," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Philippines thus joins an exclusive club of countries that enjoy a privileged security relationship with the United States. Club members, which include Japan, Australia, Israel, Egypt and South Korea and Argentina, are granted significant benefits in the area of foreign aid and defense cooperation.

Major non-Nato allies are eligible for priority delivery of defense material and the purchase, for instance, of depleted uranium anti-tank rounds.

They can stockpile US military hardware, participate in defense

BUSH/ A4

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/08/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

No Abus in Sabah kidnapping

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

BALI, Indonesia (via PLDT)—Initial suspicions that the Mindanao-based Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang carried out the kidnapping of six people from a resort in Sabah on Sunday marred President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to this tranquil Indonesian island for the 9th Leaders' Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir was reportedly convinced that the notorious bandits who have been tagged as international terrorists were the culprits, and lost no time in telling Ms Macapagal so.

The President, however, has maintained that there has been "no proof" as yet that the Abu Sayyaf was involved.

Back home, military officials whose initial statements in the wake of the abduction were what gave rise to the initial suspicion that the Abu Sayyaf was involved, corrected themselves yesterday.

"What we said the other day was a valid assumption. We did not say that they [the Abu Sayyaf] were behind it. We merely said that we were not ruling out their involvement," said Armed Forces vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, who suggested on Monday that the kidnappers could be a Filipino group as reports indicated they were heading for Mindanao.

Garcia said the Malaysian police had established that a Malaysian bandit group, not the Abu Sayyaf, carried out the abduction.

"We can now presume that they are local bandits, meaning Malaysians. We're ruling out the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Mahathir first brought up the matter with Ms Macapagal shortly after they arrived in Bali on Monday.

The two leaders sat down with their counterparts from Indonesia and Brunei that same afternoon to discuss the progress of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

A Philippine official who was at the meeting said Mahathir approached Ms Macapagal and told her that the Abu Sayyaf had struck again.

The President reportedly replied: "That's the reason we're here, why we need to cooperate and strengthen our security arrangement."

She did not mention the Abu Sayyaf and Mahathir reportedly did not pursue the subject.

But the Malaysian leader again raised the matter of the kidnapping during the working dinner for the 10 Asean heads of state on Monday night, the eve of the summit proper.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Ms Macapagal and Mahathir discussed the matter briefly during dinner.

He said the two leaders "reiterated their commitment to further strengthen their cooperation in fighting trans-border crimes and international terrorism."

In a statement yesterday, Ms Macapagal stressed that the Abu Sayyaf link has not been established.

"As of the moment, there is no proof that Filipinos were involved in this regrettable incident," she said.

Philippine officials are closely coordinating with Malaysian authorities to "identify the suspects, pinpoint their location and step up information and intelligence exchange."

"The dragnet must be local and trans-national until this crime is solved," Ms Macapagal said.

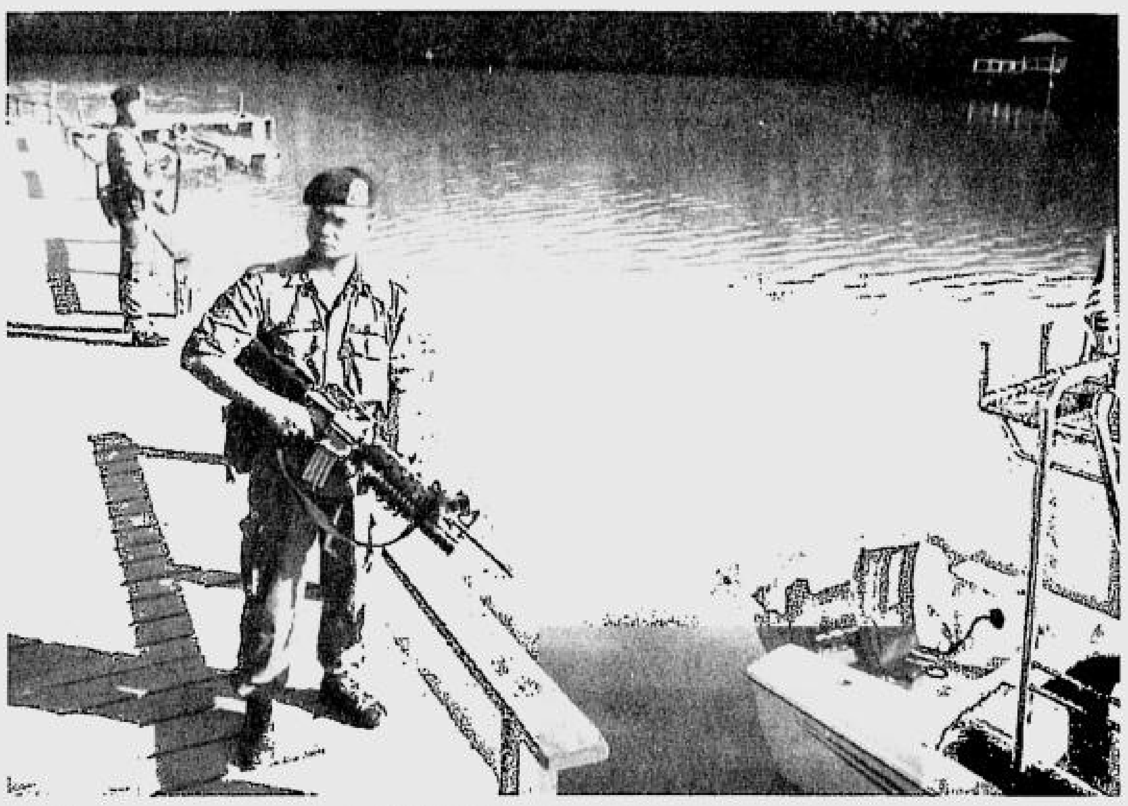
She directed Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita to "tap local information sources in the area and proactively scour places in the South where the abductors could seek refuge."

Ople said he was instructed to seek Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who is also in Bali, in order to "cooperate and coordinate our efforts on this case."

He assured Malaysia that the government would go after the kidnappers and rescue the hostages "if they are to be found within Philippine territory."

"We will not allow our territory to be used by criminals and terrorists to attack our neighbors," Ople said.

The President again harped on the "continuing threat of terrorism" and the need for regional cooperation during the summit, urging other leaders to join the agreement on communications and information exchange against terrorism and transnational crime, which was her brainchild. *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



A Malaysian policeman stands guard at the Borneo Paradise Eco-Farm Resort in eastern Sabah, Malaysia, Monday. Armed kidnappers used a speedboat to raid a remote tourist resort in the jungles of Borneo, seizing six people before escaping, officials said Monday. AP

Malaysian officials eyeing local bandits

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysian officials yesterday played down suggestions that the abduction of six people from a resort in Sabah, East Malaysia late Sunday was carried out by a foreign militant or crime group, specifically the Philippine-based Abu Sayyaf which made similar raids three years ago.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak said yesterday he believed it was unlikely the kidnapping was an incursion by a foreign group, for reasons that include the target was a small resort catering mostly to locals, not foreigners, located far inside a security cordon between Malaysia and the Philippines established after the 2000 raids by the Abu Sayyaf.

Although some of the kidnappers were wearing military fatigues and carried assault rifles, Malaysian police ruled out speculation that they were members of the Filipino Abu Sayyaf. They believe local criminals or "pirates" seeking ransom carried out the kidnapping.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was attending the Asean Leaders Summit in Bali, Indonesia, said there was "no proof" that Filipinos were behind the kidnapping but said that Philippine authorities were helping Malaysia go after the gunmen. (*See related story.*)

Suspicion had initially fallen on the Abu Sayyaf, which kidnapped 21 people, mostly Western tourists, from the Sipadan resort in Sabah in April 2000.

The Sipadan hostages were shipped to the southern Philippine island of Jolo where they were held for nearly a year in the jungle. They were later ransomed for millions of dollars.

Philippine military officials had on Monday suggested that the gang could be heading across the sea border to Mindanao with the six captives.

More than 1,000 police and military personnel were yesterday conducting a land, sea and air search yesterday for the 10 kidnappers who escaped from the tiny riverside Borneo Paradise Resort by speedboat with their Indonesian and Filipino captives.

Kuala Lumpur has asked neighboring countries, the Philippines and Indonesia, to be on the lookout for the kidnappers.

Razak said he had ordered reinforcements from peninsular Malaysia to help in the search of a jungle-clad area on the northeast tip of Borneo that is dotted with tiny islands and near both the Indonesian and Philippines borders.

The kidnappers had not communicated with the authorities, he said.

Malaysian media reported yesterday that a group of 50 schoolchildren had left the resort, which caters mainly to domestic tourists and campers, just hours before the raid.

The resort, which opened six months ago, is some 2 km from the northeast Borneo coast and 38 km from the nearest town, Kunak.

Bini Masalating, 43, whose husband Asara Saraban, 45, was among those abducted, appealed to the kidnappers to free him, saying they were not only poor, they were "nobodies."

"Whoever took my husband and the others must free them. We are merely workers earning very little," she told The Star newspaper. *AP, AFP*

Comelec counting machines cannot read 'backwards'

By Norman Bordadora

MILLIONS of votes may end up not being counted at all in next year's election due to the faulty design of the automated vote counting machines of the Commission on Elections which are not capable of reading "backwards," a computer expert said yesterday.

This developed as an organization of businessmen and professionals asked the Comelec to defer the implementation of the computerized election given the alleged incompetence of the firm that delivered the counting machines.

"If the marked ballot is inserted into the machine tail-first, the computer won't react the way it should. The votes would not be recorded in the computer," Ike Señeres, former head of the joint Senate-Comelec committee on computerization, said yesterday.

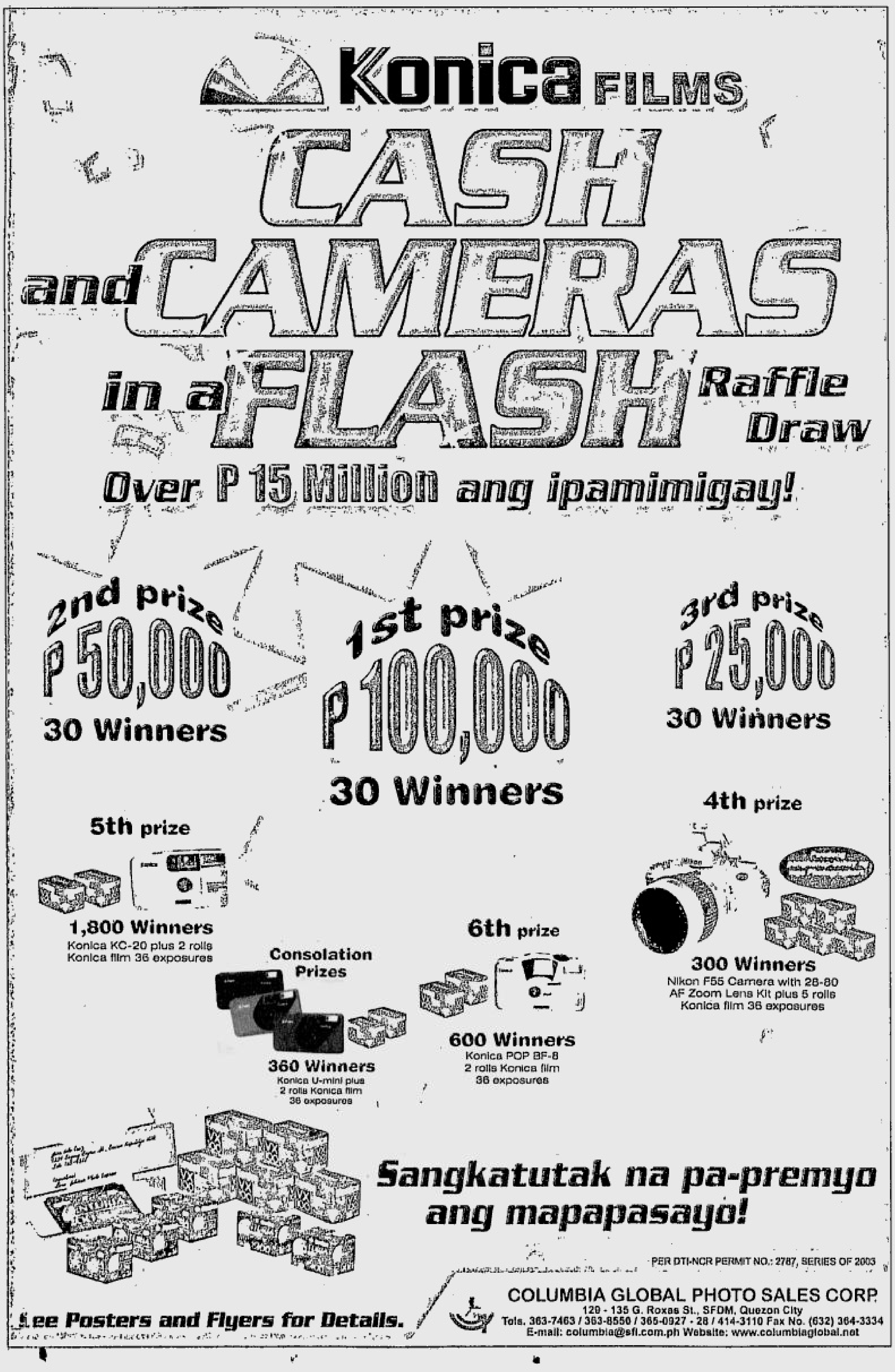
Señeres, also a former chief of the National Computer Center of the Philippines, said the same is expected to happen with ballots wherein boxes of corresponding candidates are inadequately shaded.

"The counting machines use an optical mark reader, much like the way a scanner scans images. If a ballot is inserted improperly or is not adequately marked, the machine won't react the way it should and the vote would not be counted," Señeres said.

"The problem with these machines is that the voter does not have any physical link with his or her votes once the ballot passes through the machine," he added. Thus, it is nearly impossible to verify whether ones vote for a particular candidate has been counted or not.

Señeres said the counting devices, delivered by a certain Mega Pacific Corp., use a special paper which when spoiled by dirt, water or oil would render the vote marks unreadable. "It operates much like a lotto machine," he added.

Señeres added that the machines delivered by Mega Pacific e-Solutions, Inc., are not of the same system pilot tested during the last elections in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.



Konica FILMS

CASH and CAMERAS in a FLASH Raffle Draw

Over P 15 Million ang ipamimigay!

2nd prize
P 50,000
30 Winners

1st prize
P 100,000
30 Winners

3rd prize
P 25,000
30 Winners

5th prize
1,800 Winners
Konica KC-20 plus 2 rolls Konica film 36 exposures

Consolation Prizes
360 Winners
Konica U-mini plus 2 rolls Konica film 36 exposures

6th prize
600 Winners
Konica POP BF-8 2 rolls Konica film 36 exposures

4th prize
300 Winners
Nikon F55 Camera with 28-80 AF Zoom Lens Kit plus 5 rolls Konica film 36 exposures

Sangkatutak na pa-premyo ang mapapasayo!

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 2787, SERIES OF 2003

See Posters and Flyers for Details.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
120 - 135 G. Roxas St., SFDM, Quezon City
Tels. 363-7463 / 363-8550 / 365-0927 - 28 / 414-3110 Fax No. (632) 364-3334
E-mail: columbia@sfi.com.ph Website: www.columbiaglobal.net

Lakas endorses GMA bid in '04; long Senate list

By Cynthia D. Balana, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN AN "OVERWHELMING display of confidence," the country's biggest political party, Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), unanimously endorsed President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy for 2004 yesterday and drew up a long list of possible senatorial bets.

The party's national directorate meeting at the Club Filipino in San Juan became a show of force as well, with 450 of the 500 elected government officials present.

Eight resolutions expressing gratitude to the President and committing full support for her bid were presented without argument.

Sen. Robert Barbers, vice president for Mindanao, presented the resolution of Mindanao leaders. Mayor Ramon Guico presented a similar resolution as president of the 1,498-member League of Municipalities.

The resolution of the 114-member League of Cities, headed by Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino, cited Ms Macapagal's "uncommon integrity."

Speaker Ismael Abubakar was presentor for the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, while ex-Rep. Manuel Sanchez's resolution sought a "crystallization of issues."

Rep. Augusto Syjuco's endorsement asked the directorate to proclaim Ms Macapagal the "embodiment" of Filipino ideals.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez affirmed a petition signed by 88 House members asking the President to run.

A representative of overseas Filipinos also read a statement of support.

Not a nomination

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who was elected party president replacing newly resigned Vice President Teofisto Guingona, reminded the presentors that the resolutions did not constitute an official nomination, since it was legally not yet time for party conventions.

Gonzalez was elected party vice president replacing Sen. Loren Legarda, who had resigned ahead of Guingona to become independent.

In 15 days, De Venecia announced, Lakas would enter into a coalition with the Nationalist People's Coalition, Liberal Party, various Muslim political parties, the El Shaddai and Jesus Is Lord religious movements, and civil society groups.

During yesterday's meeting, De Venecia relinquished his post as party co-chair. He said this made Ms Macapagal the only party chair, placing the entire membership under her. He also swore in 12 new members—including three congressmen and six governors—who had crossed over, most of them from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Heherson Alvarez, Lakas spokesperson and presidential adviser on overseas Philippine communities, said party members were expected to come in full force during the national convention next month, when the executive committee presents a short list of candidates.

The long list of senatorial bets submitted yesterday carried the following names:

National Capital Region and Luzon—Alvarez, Sen. Robert Jaworski, Mayor Rey Malonzo, Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Mayor Ramon Guico, former justice secretary Silvestre Bello III, Roberto Pagdanganan, Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, Gov. Lito Lapid, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Mayor Francis Tolentino, Georgina "Gina" de Venecia and Gov. Al Francis Bichara.

Visayas—Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, Representatives Apolinario Lozada and Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco, former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, Gov. Pablo Garcia and Sergio Apostol.

Mindanao—Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, Rep. Prospero Amatong and Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—former senator Santanina Rasul, Gov. Zacaria Candao, Simeon Datumanong, Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, Gov. Farouk Hussin, Mahid Mutilan and Nur Jaafar.

Caraga Region—Sen. Robert Barbers and Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Cabinet—Angelo Reyes, Luis Lorenzo, Jose Lina, Richard Gordon, Hernani Braganza, Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Larry Mendoza, Manuel Dayrit, Jose "Joey" Rufino and Ignacio "Toting" Bunye.

Videotaped messages

Ms Macapagal and former President Fidel Ramos, chair emeritus, were not at yesterday's gathering, but sent videotaped messages.

The President is in Bali, Indonesia, for a two-day summit on trade and antiterror efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Ramos is in Hong Kong to meet with former US President George Bush Sr. on various security concerns.

Rosales assumes post on Nov. 21

By Jerome Aning

ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales will be installed as the new Archbishop of Manila on Nov. 21 at the Manila Cathedral.

He would take up residence at the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros while his predecessor, Jaime Cardinal Sin, will remain at the Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City.

Rosales, who arrived yesterday from a three-week visit to Rome, went straight to the Apostolic Nunciature before seeing Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel.

The two prelates talked mostly about Rosales' visit to Rome and the arrangements for his installation, according to Sin's spokesperson, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas.

Rosales and several Filipino bishops stayed in Rome for three weeks for their ad limina apostolorum visit during which they paid homage to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul and reported the states of their dioceses to the Pope.

The Manila archbishop-elect also went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France, site of an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

Rosales, 71, was appointed last Sept. 15 to replace the ailing Cardinal Sin who resigned his post on Aug. 30 at the age of 75, the mandatory retirement age for all bishops. Sin will take the title archbishop emeritus.

Villegas said the Arzobispado, where Rosales would take up residence, houses the archdiocesan curia and the offices of the various archdiocesan ministries.

Before the war, Manila's archbishops used to live at the Arzobispado, about two blocks away from the Manila Cathedral.

Unless he would want a new room, Rosales will probably stay on the fourth and topmost floor of the Arzobispado, which is completely furnished as a living quarter.

Sin, meanwhile, will remain at the Villa San Miguel, which is near Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center where he usually undergoes medical treatment. All diocesan bishops, including those retired, are required by church law to reside within their dioceses, unless the Pope allows them otherwise.

It was earlier reported that Sin wanted to spend his retirement in his hometown of New Washington in Aklan.

IMMIGRATION agents kiss the hand of new Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales upon his arrival from the Vatican early Tuesday.

ROGER MARGALLO

GMA qualified, says still undecided bishop

FORMER Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday downplayed criticisms on President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to stand for election in 2004.

"It's just politics," Cruz told reporters, adding that despite the flak she drew from her change of mind, Ms Macapagal is "really qualified and is not disqualified to run again."

But the archbishop refused to say if he regards Ms Macapagal as the "most qualified. I would not want to say it because honestly, I myself am still thinking who to vote for," he said.

"She changed her mind and I have somehow accepted that even some time ago," said Cruz, who early criticized Ms Macapagal for invoking the name of God in making her decision whether to run or not to run in 2004.

The archbishop was earlier annoyed by the President's penchant to use the name of God and told her to leave God out of her political decisions, recalling that she also mentioned God when she announced last year that she would not run.

Asked who among the candidates are qualified, he cited former education secretary Raul Roco. He said Sen. Panfilo Lacson is also qualified, but he would "perhaps not vote" for him although he agrees that the senator is "better than the others."

The prelate also mentioned another possible presidential aspirant, actor Fernando Poe Jr., whom he is "very proud of" since Poe hails from Pangasinan but noted the negative perception against actors. *Jerome Aning*

Opposition remains fragmented—Pimentel

By Michael Lim Ubac

"THE OPPOSITION remains fragmented."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday admitted that the opposition coalition was in disarray, and that deep-seated differences among the parties would make it difficult to field a single ticket in 2004.

"How can we support a single standard-bearer when we have yet to unite and forge a common platform?" said Pimentel.

Pimentel made this revelation in the heels of Sen. Edgardo Angara's pronouncement, also yesterday, that the coalition would be formalized soon.

"Our problem is one of abundance rather than shortage," said Angara, leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. "There are so many organizations and political parties, as well as individual politicians, who would like to join our coalition."

Angara predicted: "Within a month... we (will) announce our standard-bearer, senatorial slate and vice president."

They had a stable of "presidentiables," he said: Senators Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan and even Pimentel; businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco; and actor Fernando Poe Jr.

But Pimentel, leader of PDP-Laban, was not as upbeat: "The reality is that the opposition is *watak-watak* (divided)."

He described as "mere rhetoric" the announcement of Sen. Vicente Sotto III on Saturday that alliance of Angara's LDP and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition was a "done deal."

In fact, Pimentel said, he was never approached by Angara or Sotto to join a coalition. "I only heard generalities such as, 'We belong to the opposition, therefore we should work together.'"

He said unity among opposition parties could be accomplished only on the basis of a platform, "not popularity, financial capacity or other considerations."

Insisting that people should know why they are voting for a certain candidate, Pimentel suggested that oppositionists who have declared presidential plans should hold a series of public debates on key issues affecting the national interest.

These debates would "remove the chaff from the grain," he said, and make it easier to choose a candidate against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, likewise, urged fellow oppositionists to speed up the formation of the coalition. Meanwhile, he said, key opposition figures such as Lacson should stop making statements that worked against the coalition efforts.

Lacson recently described NPC as "neither here nor there."

Re-sculpt Your Figure Safely

Plasti-Dermi Treatment
-- The Non-Surgical Liposuction Technology from Marie-France

The Plasti-Dermi Treatment (PDT) is Marie-France's "non-surgical liposuction" method to remove excess fat without any risk or discomfort to your health or your body.

The PDT works by detaching trapped fat cells within your body's tissues. It also improves blood circulation and lymphatic drainage within your cellulite-problem areas. It can even preserve your skin's elasticity to prevent it from sagging after weight-loss for an overall slimmer, smoother look. All these with no skin penetration, internal harm, and other problems that go with fat-reduction surgery.

Re-sculpt your body with Marie-France's real and painless alternative to liposuction. Try the Plasti-Dermi Treatment now!

Enroll now and get
2 FREE PLASTI-DERMI TREATMENTS
from October 6-11, 2003 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4144, Series of 2003

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	TIMOG	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1262	687-1216	372-6635	242-2199	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
815-2052	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639

NOW OPEN Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm • Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Not again! Jailed Abu kills 3 cops in Crame

From page A1

Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said Bungkak seized the M-16 rifle of his escort, PO2 Frumencio Lafuente, while leaving the CIDG's Office for Businessmen's Concern building at around 6 a.m.

The detainee was supposed to undergo his routine morning "sun bath," Matillano said.

After shooting Lafuente, Bungkak fired at PO2 Arvin Garces, who was then at the receiving area, and PO2 Alistaire Garcia.

Garces and Garcia died on the spot from bullet wounds in the head, while Lafuente later died from bullet wounds in the body at the PNP hospital, Matillano said.

Other versions

Another version of the story had it that Garcia was killed when he returned to the building after he brought his wounded comrades, PO2 Angelito de Juan and PO2 Armando Reyes, to the hospital.

Besides Reyes and De Juan, Senior Insp. Rommel Rumbaoa, head of the unit that initially rushed to the scene, was wounded.

Other reports said that Bungkak got hold of the rifle because he was asked by his custodians to clean it or because he could freely roam the building as a utility boy. Matillano vehemently denied the reports.

Asked by reporters about the handling of the incident, a visibly irritated Ebdane retorted, "This isn't like a movie."

He said Bungkak and several other detainees had been let out of their cells without handcuffs for an early morning walk outside because that "is one of the privileges supposed to be afforded to any detainee."

"Let us give the CIDG the trust and confidence in leading the investigation," he told reporters.

The incident prompted Matillano to go on leave pending the completion of the probe. He was replaced by Director Rolando Garcia, chief of the directorate for investigation and detection management.

Matillano earlier sacked Supt. Rosueto Ricaforte, chief of the CIDG's OBC-Anti-Organized Crime Division.

Because of the security lapses at the OBC, supposedly a maximum security facility, Matillano said the remaining inmates would be moved to the detention center at the nearby Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response team. The detainees included four other Abu Sayyaf suspects in the Zamboanga bombings, pyramid scam suspect Ervin Mateo and a key suspect in the murder of public relations practitioner Bubby Dacer.

"We should look at this incident in the positive light," Matillano said. "Let's remember that we did our best to neutralize the inmate and three of my men died in the process."

Swift reaction

Ebdane said he was told of Bungkak's rampage by an aide who had heard gunshots coming from the OBC building.

Accompanied by at least four other police generals, Ebdane rushed to the scene and ordered the area cordoned off at around 6:30 a.m. Media people were kept a block away from the building.

Members of Pacer's elite light reaction unit arrived a few minutes earlier, followed by the Special Weapons and Tactics units from Quezon City and the Eastern Police District.

Ebdane said no negotiation with Bungkak took place because the detainee was allegedly firing at will.

Gunshots were heard between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m. Each round was followed by an ambulance rushing a policeman out of the vicinity.

Shortly before 9 a.m., police fired tear gas into the building as SWAT and Pacer members charged inside. Bungkak was cornered and killed at the toilet in the rear portion of the building.

The hostage-taking further sharpened the criticism against the police force.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former military chief of staff, said the attempted escape was "the height of incompetence, negligence or plain stupidity," on the part of the police officials.

"Because of this, the executive should now be required to effect an honest to goodness revamp of these agencies," he said.

Ebdane's fate

President Macapagal-Arroyo was likely to decide on the fate of Ebdane and other top PNP officers for the "regrettable incident" upon her return from an Asean summit meeting in Bali, Indonesia, according to deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo.

Saludo said the President was currently "too busy" in Bali to make any decision on possible changes in the PNP leadership.

In the meantime, the President has ordered the speedy completion of the maximum security facility, which will have 28 cells, being built in Camp Crame which was originally scheduled for completion in mid-November. Support facilities would also be rushed ahead of the original completion target of January 2004.

Saludo said the maximum-security facility would be the solution to the perennial security problems faced by Camp Crame officers.

He said the PNP has been forced to make do with converted offices as holding cells because of the lack of proper facilities to hold its prisoners. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan and INQUIRER wires*

Kin says Bungkak victim of injustice

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"Our brother is a victim of injustice," Bashier Jama said after Buyungan Bungkak was killed in a hostage-taking drama in Manila yesterday.

"I can't believe it. My brother wasn't like that," Bashier said in Filipino in an interview at their house in Barangay Manicahan here.

Buyungan, 19, a fisherman, was arrested inside the Mila's Boarding House in Barangay Guiwan on Oct. 23, 2002. His real name was Jul Jama.

Jul's father Ahmad said in an interview last year that his son was wrongly accused of bombing shopping malls here on Oct. 17, 2002 that left six people killed and a hundred others wounded.

Ahmad said that on Oct. 15, 2002, his son had gone to town to buy paint and nails for the repair of the family-owned fishing boat, but he failed to return home.

Nine days later, Ahmad recalled, they only saw Jul on television being presented as one of the suspects in the bombing. Jul was then introduced as Buyungan Bungkak.

"We were not able to talk because he was brought to Manila and was presented to the President," Ahmad said.

Ahmad died on April 4, and this could have forced his brother to do what he did yesterday, Bashier said.

"Our father went everywhere to look or talk to my brother. He died without even seeing my brother," he said.

Jul and three other suspects were arrested by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, then led by Supt. Martin Bola-bola, inside the boarding house while allegedly planning another attack.

Police claimed several homemade bombs and a detailed illustration of a car bomb were recovered from them. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Chronology of events

By Christian V. Esguerra

6 a.m.
Abu Sayyaf detainee Buyungan Bungkak grabs rifle of PO2 Frumencio Lafuente and shoots him.
6:05
Bungkak shoots two other officers inside the Office of Businessmen's Concern building
6:20
Ebdane told of "commotion" at the OBC, deploys the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response team's light reaction unit and Special Action Force
6:30
Ebdane arrives with other PNP generals, orders area cordoned off; Crame's Santolan gate closed to public
7 a.m.
Special Weapons and Tactics Units arrive
Between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m.
Gunshots heard from OBC building; ambulance seen rushing policemen from OBC building to the PNP hospital.
8:20
A man introducing himself as a Muslim offers to negotiate with Bungkak but was refused
8:30
Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP information officer, emerges from cordoned area, briefs media on situation, says three cops were injured
8:45
Cops bomb sealed exit at the back of the OBC building; SWAT men barge in and shoot dead Bungkak inside toilet
9 a.m.
Bataoil announces that Bungkak has been "neutralized."

Bush designates RP . . .

From page A1

research and development programs, and benefit from a US government loan guarantee program which backs up loans issued by private banks to finance arms exports.

However, the designation does not afford these special US military allies the same mutual defense guarantees enjoyed by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"I hereby designate the Republic of the Philippines as a major non-Nato ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act," Bush wrote in a memorandum sent late Monday to US Secretary of State Colin Powell, ordering the publication of the document in the Federal Register.

The move comes ahead of Bush's planned visit to the Philippines later this month, which is expected to bring the two country's cooperation in the war on terror to a new level.

Bush, who will make a stop in Manila en route to Bangkok for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, was expected to discuss with President Macapagal-Arroyo ways to reaffirm, as she put it, "our commitments to key programs that will push forward political and economic security in this part of the world." During Bush's visit, Ms Macapagal is expected to push for the delivery of 30 advanced US combat helicopters and 30,000 M-16 rifles that Philippine officials say they need to fight Moro rebels and bandits suspected of having links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The grant of status to the Philippines as a major US non-Nato ally is bound to facilitate such sales—and the implementation of other military assistance programs, according to US foreign policy experts.

With the war on terror in high gear, the US military is spending $68 million to help train and equip a light Philippine infantry battalion, a rapid reaction company as well as improve the military's intelligence gathering capabilities, according to US defense officials.

In addition, the Pentagon is working to maintain on the islands what US Pacific Command head Admiral Thomas Fargo called "critical tactical mobility platforms," including UH-1H helicopters, C-130 transport aircraft, heavy trucks and patrol boats that could be used in case of major US military operations in the region.

"The security situation in the Philippines needs continued improvement to attract investments and promote economic stability," Fargo told the US Congress last summer.

The list of major non-Nato allies of Washington is expected to grow.

Powell announced last month that the administration was moving toward granting of such a status to Kuwait, a key US ally in the Gulf that was the main staging area for US and British troops participating in the invasion of Iraq in March. *Reports by AFP and TJ Burgonio*

Asean commits to free trade . . .

From page A1

and annual trade totaling $720 billion.

"How we achieve this collective aspiration depends on our resolve and commitment to live up to the vision of the crafters of Bali Concord I," Ms Macapagal said at the opening of the Asean Leaders' Summit.

She urged her fellow leaders to "identify the weak links in our regional integration efforts and address this with greater political will." She also suggested pursuing other avenues of cooperation "that will truly promote balanced development and narrow the development gap" in the region.

Ms Macapagal called for the expansion of programs on tourism, information dissemination and academic and cultural exchanges "to create a greater sense of awareness amongst our people in our quest for a common Asean identity."

"We have just witnessed a watershed in the history of Asean," Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who hosted the summit, said. "It will make it possible for our children and their children to live in enduring peace, stability and shared prosperity."

Asean—which is made up the Philippines, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand—wants to band together to counter the burgeoning economic might of India and China, Asian powerhouses that are siphoning off investment and trade seen as essential for Southeast Asia's development.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao tackled those worries head-on at a parallel business summit.

"My answer is that a more developed and stronger China will bring about development opportunities and tangible benefits to other Asian countries," he told business leaders in the region.

"China's development will bring tremendous immediate and long-term benefits to Asian countries. It provides a huge market for Asian countries," he said, adding that China would encourage its companies to invest in other Asian countries.

Delegates to the business summit noted that Southeast Asia, a star performer of the global economy until the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, is now attracting only a fifth of what China is receiving in foreign investment.

Win-win

About 75 percent of direct American investment in East Asia went to nations in Southeast Asia a decade ago—but that figure has plunged to 10 percent as companies now put 80 percent of that money into China, according to the US-Asean Business Council.

The regional grouping is considering advancing the 2020 deadline as it works on free trade agreements to be completed with China in 2010, India in 2011 and Japan in 2012, Asean Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong said at the weekend.

"The China-Asean Free Trade Area is a win-win arrangement," Wen said. By 2010 the world could see a free trade area with nearly two billion people and total gross domestic product of almost $3.0 trillion taking shape in Asia, he added.

Several leaders urged an earlier deadline for creating the Asean Economic Community, modeled on European integration of the 1960s and 1970s. They warned Asean economies risked being left behind.

Leaders discussed bringing forward the date and left open the possibility. "Seventeen years from now might be too late," Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Monday of the goal to cut tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the region.

But Singapore Prime Minster Goh Chok Tong, a leading advocate of the free trade bloc, poured cold water on high expectations for quick progress by a group that has frequently adopted such plans and failed to follow through. He urged proper implementation.

Asean has long been viewed as a talking shop that stresses consensus over confrontation among members, ranging from nascent democracies to monarchies and a military dictatorship, which can be reluctant or unable to follow through on agreed initiatives.

Burma

Despite Asean's tradition of staying out of domestic politics, members pushed for Suu Kyi's pre-summit release from house arrest as a goodwill gesture—but without success. Once the summit began, leaders focused on economics, not politics, and backed away from criticizing Burma.

At a farewell tribute on Tuesday to outgoing Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, he urged colleagues not to abandon this policy of "non-interference in the internal affairs of member countries."

"The Asean leaders have wimped out as far as Burma is concerned," said Debbie Stothard of the Bangkok-based activist group at a protest outside the summit venue.

Some Asian leaders have called for a reexamination of the grouping's noninterference principle, saying flagrant human rights violations hurt integration efforts,

Speaking at a parallel business summit on Tuesday, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said the region should not shy away from discussing political issues. "A sound political environment is indispensable to ... expand trade and investment," he said. *With reports by AP and Reuters*

PHILHEALTH
Advisory

No. 06-002-2003

For All members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and all concerned

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2004, a new premium contribution schedule for the employed and Sponsored (Indigent) Sector of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall be implemented.

Below is the new contribution schedule for the employed sector:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (SB)	Total Monthly Contribution	Personal Share (PS) (PS = SB x 1.25%)	Employer Share (ES) (ES = PS)
1	P4,999.99 and below	P4,000.00	P100.00	P50.00	P50.00
2	P5,000.00 - P5,999.99	P5,000.00	P125.00	P62.50	P62.50
3	P6,000.00 - P6,999.99	P6,000.00	P150.00	P75.00	P75.00
4	P7,000.00 - P7,999.99	P7,000.00	P175.00	P87.50	P87.50
5	P8,000.00 - P8,999.99	P8,000.00	P200.00	P100.00	P100.00
6	P9,000.00 - P9,999.99	P9,000.00	P225.00	P112.50	P112.50
7	P10,000.00 - P10,999.99	P10,000.00	P250.00	P125.00	P125.00
8	P11,000.00 - P11,999.99	P11,000.00	P275.00	P137.50	P137.50
9	P12,000.00 - P12,999.99	P12,000.00	P300.00	P150.00	P150.00
10	P13,000.00 - P13,999.99	P13,000.00	P325.00	P162.50	P162.50
11	P14,000.00 - P14,999.99	P14,000.00	P350.00	P175.00	P175.00
12	P15,000.00 and up	P15,000.00	P375.00	P187.50	P187.50

Contributions from the public and private sector employers should be remitted **on or before the 10th day of the month following the applicable month** at any PhilHealth offices or through accredited collecting agents and their branches nationwide.

Failure to deduct and / or consequently remit the said premiums shall make the employer liable under the penal provisions provided in Article X of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (RA 7875).

Moreover, to ensure proper and immediate posting of employers' contribution payments, employers are enjoined to submit the Quarterly Remittance Reports textfile format on or before the 15th day of the month following the applicable quarter.

For the Sponsored (Indigent) Sector:

Premiums for members of the Sponsored (Indigent) Sector shall also be revised from the annual rate of P1,188 to P1,200 per family effective for Enrollments and Renewals starting January 2004.

PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health

LAUTERBUR

MANSFIELD

2 scientists …

From page A1

modern magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a painless routine diagnostic procedure now performed 60 million times a year worldwide.

MRI has helped replace invasive examinations and reduced the risk and discomfort of medical tests ahead of surgery. It is valuable in imaging the brain and spinal cord, and has played an important role in the improved treatment of multiple sclerosis, cancer and Parkinson's disease.

MRI lets doctors see the extent of a tumor, localize an inflammation in the nervous system or even see a beating heart.

"They have made seminal discoveries concerning the use of magnetic resonance . . . which represents a breakthrough in medical diagnostics and research," the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institutet university hospital said in its citation for the prize—worth $1.3 million.

Lauterbur, 74, reached at his home in Urbana, Illinois, said he was surprised to win the prize.

"Everything they say about this sort of interference in your life is true, but it's wonderful," he said.

"It was basically an idea, but once one has an idea, the many possibilities become apparent, and so it seized hold of me for about a quarter of a century," added Lauterbur, a professor and director of the Biomedical Magnetic Resonance Laboratory at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

"I was sure MRI would be a useful tool. I had no idea how useful."

The prize is gratifying, said Lauterbur, but much of the credit for it should go to those who amplified his work, which began in 1971.

Do one's best and survive

Mansfield, who turns 70 this week and is a professor of physics at the University of Nottingham, thought it was a joke when his wife told him he had won.

"I didn't expect anything like this at all. If someone just told you, you had won the Nobel Prize I think the reaction of 90 percent of the population would be 'Yeah, go on pull the other one'," Mansfield said.

He said his team decades ago had not realized the impact their achievements would have.

"At those early stages one isn't thinking about the hundreds of millions of people who might benefit from it. You are thinking about getting the damn thing to work," he said.

"It is, I suppose, every scientist's hope that one day he may be singled out for such an honor, but I must say that in my case I did think about it a few years ago, but then dismissed it," Mansfield said.

"What you have to do in science is to do your best and try to survive," he said.

Based on earlier discovery

The laureates' innovations are based on the discovery of the magnetic resonance phenomenon, or how atomic nuclei rotate in a magnetic field, 30 years earlier. Felix Bloch and Edward Mills Purcell won the Nobel physics prize on this finding in 1952.

Until Lauterbur's and Mansfield's studies in the early 1970s—which lead to practical applications a decade later—magnetic resonance was used mainly for studying the chemical structure of substances.

Lauterbur found a way to create two-dimensional pictures by introducing gradients in the magnetic field and build pictures of structures that could not be visualized with other methods.

Mansfield showed the signals could be analyzed mathematically, making it possible to develop an imaging method.

Today, there are some 22,000 MRI cameras globally.

Reuters, AFP, AP

Where moments take flight.

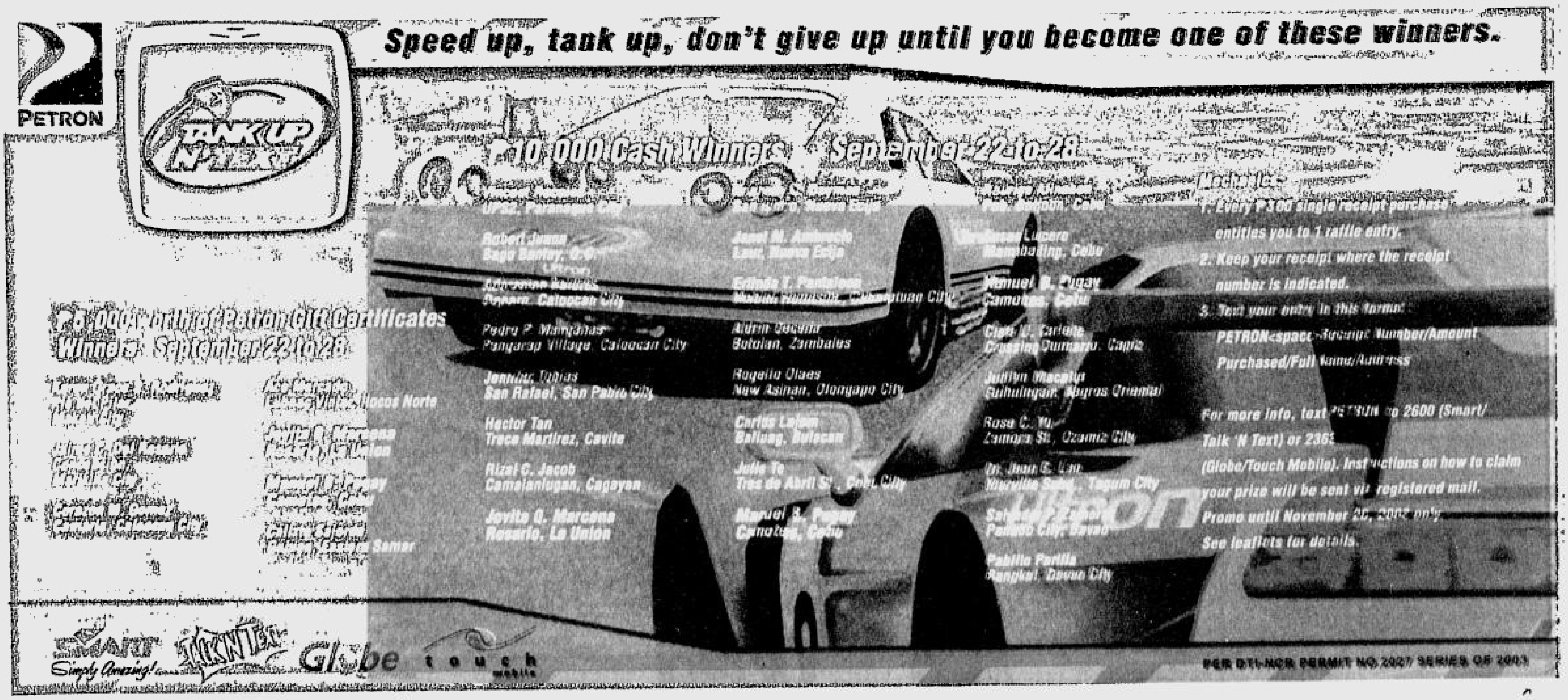
Your taste buds will now go soaring when you come to Galleria. Robinsons Galleria East Wing has arrived! We've cooked up a wide range of dishes for your every craving. We've prepared a wide menu of restaurants, dessert places and coffee shops that's sure to whet your appetite. An experience like this can only take off at Robinsons Galleria East Wing.

NOW OPEN

Robinsons Department Store • Chocolate Clothing • Company Hearts & Arrows • Country Lifestyle • Health & Beyond • Marcella • NafNaf • Royal Sporting House • Rusty Lopez • Showcase Carpet • S.P.F.

MORE SHOPS TO OPEN:
Arcel's Design • Asian Finds • Back To Basics • Beauty Bar • Bed 2 Bath • Blue Dolphin • B.T.I.C. (Better Than Ice Cream) • Cereo Candles • Cinnabon • Circo • CMM Home & Lifestyle Gallery • Color & Life • Digital Studio • Dimensione • Decelio 465 Gifts & Decor • Electronics Depot • EO Active Eyestyle • Esse • Forty Winks • Funktionell • Gloria Jeans Coffee • Gold's Gym • Hao Tsai • Home Options • Jesi Mendez • Lacoste • Lonely Planet • Marks & Spencer • Oodys • Papyvore • Parklane • Ritz Apple Strudle • Sticks • Terranova • The Thai Kitchen • The Floor Center • Urban Concepts • U2 • Van Heusen • VNC • Wade • Watsons • Women's Secrets • Yellow Cab • 50th Avenue

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
EAST WING
Where life takes flight.



PETRON
TANK UP N' TEXT
Speed up, tank up, don't give up until you become one of these winners.
₱10,000 Cash Winners September 22 to 28
Robert Juana
Bago Bantay, Q.C.
Pedro P. Manjanos
Pangarap Village, Caloocan City
Jennifer Tobias
San Rafael, San Pablo City
Hector Tan
Trece Martirez, Cavite
Rizal C. Jacob
Camalaniugan, Cagayan
Jovita Q. Marcena
Rosario, La Union
Laur, Nueva Ecija
Botolan, Zambales
Rogelio Olaes
New Asinan, Olongapo City
Baliuag, Bulacan
Julie Te
Tres de Abril St., Cebu City
Manuel B. Pugay
Camotes, Cebu
Mambaling, Cebu
Capiz
Guihulngan, Negros Oriental
Rosa C. Yu
Zamora St., Ozamiz City
Tagum City
Panabo City, Davao
Pablito Perilla
Bangkal, Davao City
₱5,000 worth of Petron Gift Certificates Winners September 22 to 28
Mechanics
1. Every ₱300 single receipt purchase entitles you to 1 raffle entry.
2. Keep your receipt where the receipt number is indicated.
3. Text your entry in this format: PETRON<space>Receipt Number/Amount Purchased/Full Name/Address
For more info, text PETRON to 2600 (Smart/Talk 'N Text) or 2363 (Globe/Touch Mobile). Instructions on how to claim your prize will be sent via registered mail. Promo until November 2[illegible], 2003 only. See leaflets for details.
SMART Simply Amazing!
TALK 'N TEXT
Globe
touch mobile
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2027 SERIES OF 2003

Memorial for RP vets nears completion

HONOLULU—A memorial to Filipinos who fought in World War II will be finished by Veterans Day, the monument's builder said.

Workers will stay on the job 15 hours a day, seven days a week to complete the two-meters-high, three-meter-wide concrete memorial by Nov. 11, said Lito Alcantara of Group Builders. Alcantara is donating his company's services for the memorial.

The memorial is being built at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu. It is to include a granite plaque, two pillars symbolizing America and the Philippines, and a rainbow shape connecting the columns, according to Oscar Paez Jr., the architect.

The Filipino Community Center opened last year near the Oahu Sugar Mill and Hans L'Orange Park, touted as the largest such center of its kind outside the Philippines.

According to 2000 Census figures, Hawaii's 170,635 Filipinos make up about 14 percent of the state population. *AP*

AUSSIE HORSES

GMA gives go-signal to probe son Mikey

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has finally ordered the Ombudsman to look into the alleged purchase of 17 thoroughbred horses from Australia by her son, Pampanga Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "No one is above the law, my family included. Let the Office of the Ombudsman do its job and let transparency be the order of the day."

This was the first time that either the President or Malacañang has acted or given a statement on the issue, which has been in the news for several weeks.

The allegations have raised questions on Arroyo's financial capability to bankroll such a purchase, as well as on the undervalued taxes paid.

MIKEY Arroyo

Arroyo, who has flatly denied ownership of the horses, is the second member of the First Family to be implicated in a scandal. His father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, was recently accused by Sen. Panfilo Lacson of laundering campaign funds. Father and son share a passion for horses.

Ms Macapagal earlier announced that her family was covered by the lifestyle check prescription for government officials.

However, Malacañang could not say what agency would conduct the audit on the First Family. The Philippine Anti-Graft Commission begged off from the task, saying it had authority only over public officials. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

House committee unfazed by threat of Palace veto

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE committee on health yesterday endorsed the controversial reproductive health care bill for floor deliberations.

This is the same bill that President Macapagal-Arroyo, during her state-of-the-nation address (Sona), vowed to veto on grounds that it would ultimately legalize abortion. The Catholic Church is also opposing its passage.

Voting 17-10 with committee chair Rep. Antonio Yapha Jr. (NPC, Cebu) siding with the opposition, the committee passed House Bill 4110, principally authored by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo and co-sponsored by 64 other lawmakers.

The bill seeks to provide the people with access to "all forms" of family planning methods, except abortion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and natal care services.

It has been attacked as pro-abortion and one that encourages sexual promiscuity among the youth. Angara-Castillo said its legislator-sponsors, as well as those who might vote for its passage, have been threatened with political dissociation by Church-led groups.

In an interview, Angara-Castillo cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey which she said indicated 94 per cent public support for the measure.

The feisty legislator is not daunted by the President's threat or the Church's objection.

"I am confident that with people support and the critical help of the media, we will be able to pass it," Angara-Castillo said.

She lamented what she called "distortions" being peddled by opposing quarters. For one, she pointed out, the bill did not contradict the anti-abortion law, and merely provided for management of "complications" arising from illegal abortions.

The bill defines family planning as one that "enables couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."

She denied that the bill encouraged young people to engage in early sex. Rather, she said, it would educate them on sexuality.

The bill has a counterpart measure in the Senate sponsored by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, which has yet to move past the committee level.

BUDGET AIRFARES

BANGKOK	$180	SINGAPORE	$195
NEW YORK	$668	LOS ANGELES	$575
AUSTRALIA	$410	SEOUL	$360
TOKYO	$330	EUROPE	$725
EAST COAST	$718	SAN FRANCISCO	$668

SYDNEY PACKAGE 4D/3N $499
SINGAPORE PACKAGE $248
BANGKOK PACKAGE $198
EUROPE PACKAGE 17DAYS $1788
TODAVIA TOURS AND TRAVEL
8188230 8188265 8188268
Email: todaviatours@yahoo.com

traveling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations

EUROPE "PROMO" SIGHTSEEING
14 Days Nov. 08 dep $1,070
Paris - Brussels - Amsterdam - Cologne - Rhine Valley - Heidelberg - Rothenburg - Munich - Salzburg - Innsbruck - Venice - Florence - Rome

11 Days - US WEST COAST
Until Nov. 26 Departure $1,760
CHRISTMAS SEASON TOUR $1,950
Los Angeles - Disneyland - Universal Studios - San Diego Sea World - Tijuana - Lake Havasu - Grand Canyon - Hoover Dam - Las Vegas - Barstow - Solvang - Hearst Castle - Fresno - Yosemite Park - San Francisco

EUROPE MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
"PROMO" TOUR
11 Days Nov. 12 dep $1,890
Lisbon - Fatima - Salamanca - Avila - Madrid - Zaragoza - Lourdes - Avignon - Nice - French Riviera - Florence - Assisi - Roma

HOLYLAND EGYPT & JORDAN
12 Days Nov. 08 - 19, 2003 US$ 1,860.00
With Group Chaplain

8 Days SYDNEY & MELBOURNE - $858
8 Days SYDNEY & GOLDCOAST - $865

PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC.
Unit 210 City & Land Mega Plaza (2nd flr. Parking Level) ADB Ave., cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tels.: 688-8846 • 688-8658 • 687-2694 Fax 688-8846
E-mail: troytours@info.com.ph

THE SPECIALIST FOR EVERY LAMINATING JOB
FUJIPLA
LAMIPACKER.
JAPAN'S NO.1 LAMINATOR
Great ID Card
Diploma, Photographs and Certificates
LPD2307
LPD 3206
Original Plastic films and Rolls are readily Available
Call us for a FREE DEMONSTRATION NOW
ONE YEAR FREE SERVICE and SPARE PARTS
SOLE PHILIPPINE IMPORTER
HANTEX TRADING CO., INC.
Suite 901 9th flr., Tytana Plaza
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila
Tels.: 241-0558; 241-0244; 241-0281; 241-0078
THE LEADER IN THE LAMINATING FIELD

GO WITH THE NAME YOU KNOW!
50% OFF
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
- SCP The Success & Confidence Building Program
- CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
- CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
- CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
- WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing

PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1049
ALABANG - 753-1048

Increase your defense from
SARS
Take pure Vitamin C !!!
ASCONVITA 500 MG
Sugar free
also good for diabetic patients
Available at all leading drugstores
Distributed by:
MEDIC AID DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
Tel. Nos. 410-3250 / 723-00-71 to 74
Local 120 / 121 / 122

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
BRAND NEW RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
RECONDITIONED POWDER FT3320 FOR OFFICE USE
₱15,000. ONLY
₱49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
₱20,000. ONLY
BRAND NEW FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
₱17,500. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 M/ Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
- We Buy / Trade-in Liquid Copiers
- Ringbinders / Cutters Gestetner / Bluprint / Riso / Laminating / Fax Machines

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF
CALL: 410-4521
929-9598 • 928-2765
926-6031 • 9266029
415-3841 • 410-7228
FREE DELIVERY

FIESTA ROYALE ...... 8 courses
For 25 persons ... P3,450 only
CHICKEN RELLENO [Net wt. 1.2kg. cooked], boneless and makes about 25 slices • BEEF CALDERETA [2kg beef] thick spicy sauce • PORK ROAST [2 kg with mashed potatoes] • CHICKEN WITH GREENPEAS & QUAIL EGGS [2kg chicken] w/ thick white sauce • EMBOTIDO GRANDE [1⅝ - ½" x 3 ½"] makes 40 small slices or 20 big slices • MORCON [3pcs. 6 ½ inches long each meaty and cheesy] • SPAGHETTI [1 gallon tray] meaty and cheesy • FRUIT SALAD [Net wt. 2.0 kg] special and creamy with peaches, grapes, and cheese

PULUTAN ESPESYAL For 20 persons	4 courses	P1,850 only
PULUTAN GRANDE For 20 persons	5 courses	P2,200 only
FIESTA ESPESYAL For 20 persons	6 courses	P2,575 only
FIESTA PILIPINO For 20 persons	6 courses	P2,690 only
FIESTA GRANDE For 20 persons	6 courses	P2,825 only
FIESTA TROPICANA For 20 persons	6 courses	P3,260 only
HOLIDAY SPECIAL For 35 persons	10 courses	P6,325 only
BUFFET DE LUXE For 35 persons	6 courses	P5,675 only

CCME HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO. 111 Dr. Lazcano St. Q.C.

MuLAN 木蘭旅行社 TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
4 Days Shanghai 5 Days Beijing
6 Days Yangtze River Departure, Oct. 20
6-8 Days Shanghai/Beijing Departure, Oct. 23
10 Days Shanghai/Beijing/Xian/Guilin Departure, Oct. 23
17 Days Europe $1,688.00 Departure, Nov. 11
18 Days Europe W/ London $1,988.00 Departure, Nov. 10
17 Days Eastern Europe $1,888.00 Departure, Nov. 08
ALSO AVAILABLE:
Special Packages for Hongkong, Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur Australia, Saigon, Guam, Palao, USA, Canada, Star & other Cruises
LEO STAR CRUISE WITH REGINE VELASQUEZ
525 NUEVA ST., BINONDO MANILA. Tel. 244-9690, 245-4658, 309-1758
Tel/Fax. 244-9692. Cel No. 0919-479-7648. mulantravel@hotmail.com

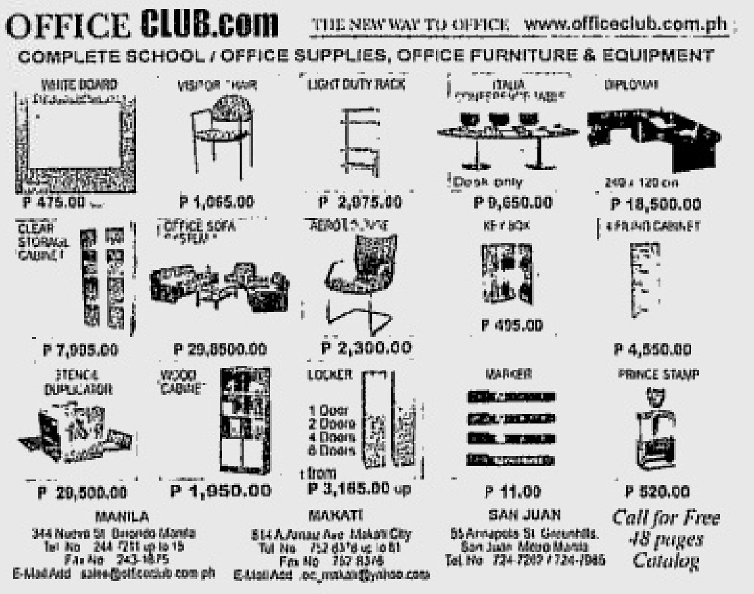
CUT INTO HALF!!!
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL!!!
- Chuck Capacity 10mm.
- Charger Output: DC 18v
- Keyless Chucks
- No Load Speed: 600rpm
- Built In Bubble Level
- Various Speed
- Reversible Drilling Capacity

TOBEKO AUTOPRO*
Now only P2,050
GRAB ONE NOW! FREE DELIVERY WITHIN METRO MANILA
• WITH PLASTIC CARRY CASE • 6 MOS. WARRANTY
• WITH DRILL BIT AND OTHER ACCESSORIES
The Third Line Enterprises
No. 70 Carnival Park St., BFRV, Las Piñas City
Tel.: 873-9342
Metro Manila and Province Consignment Reseller are welcome

Simple Mathematics of the Advantages of Trash Bags
The trash bag with a built-in tie (Patented); hassle-free in closing the bag.
+
Rolled for easy dispensing and neat keeping.
+
Compact and Handy; can be taken anywhere
+
Mess-free and easier to use
+
Now thicker and stronger than ever
For quality trash bags...
Always look for this LOGO
Available at all leading Supermarkets.
QUICKTIE™ EASYTIE™

CHINA
THE FINEST VACATION PARADISE
HOLIDAY PACKAGES:
- Beijing 4 Days Tour
- Shanghai 4 Days Tour
- Shanghai, Suzhou 4 Days Tour
- Hangzhou, Shanghai 4 Days Tour
- Yangtze River Three Gorges 6 Days Tour
- Beijing, Shanghai 7 Days Tour
- Jiuzhaigou Valley 9 Days Tour
- Exotic Yunnan 9 Days Tour

Special Promo Package Tour
• HONG KONG • SEOUL • MALAYSIA • AUSTRALIA
• SINGAPORE • USA • BANGKOK
Uni-Orient TRAVEL, INC.
BINONDO: 447 Juan Luna St., Binondo Tel: 243-3888
MAKATI : 167 Legaspi St., Cor. Dela Rosa Tel: 818-9585; 815-8326
CEBU : 90 F. Ramos St., Cebu City Tel: 253-1066


OFFICE CLUB.com THE NEW WAY TO OFFICE www.officeclub.com.ph
COMPLETE SCHOOL / OFFICE SUPPLIES, OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

WHITE BOARD	P 475.00
VISITOR CHAIR	P 1,065.00
LIGHT DUTY RACK	P 2,075.00
ITALIA CONFERENCE TABLE (Desk only)	P 9,650.00
DIPLOMAT (240 x 120 cm)	P 18,500.00
CLEAR STORAGE CABINET	P 7,995.00
OFFICE SOFA SYSTEM	P 29,8500.00
AEROTECH CHAIR	P 2,300.00
KEY BOX	P 495.00
4 DRAWER CABINET	P 4,550.00
STENCIL DUPLICATOR	P 20,500.00
WOOD CABINET	P 1,950.00
LOCKER (1 Door, 2 Doors, 4 Doors, 6 Doors)	from P 3,165.00 up
MARKER	P 11.00
PRINCE STAMP	P 520.00

MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo Manila
Tel No. 244 7251 up to 15
Fax No. 243-1875
E-Mail Add sales@officeclub.com.ph

MAKATI
814 A.Arnaiz Ave. Makati City
Tel No. 752 8378 up to 81
Fax No. 757 8376
E-Mail Add oc_makati@yahoo.com

SAN JUAN
55 Annapolis St. Greenhills. San Juan Metro Manila
Tel. No. 724-7262 / 724-7045

Call for Free 48 pages Catalog

SPEECHPOWER
OCTOBER TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2003
Mon to Fri at 2.5 hours / session
Classes are strictly classified for:
- Elementary
- High School
- College
- Professional and Career Levels

Join our FREE SAMPLE LESSONS
Oct. 13 - Monday Cubao
Oct. 15 - Wednesday Taft
Oct. 17 - Friday España

3:00-5:00pm; 6:00-8:00pm
For more details, call:

CUBAO	TAFT	ESPANA
9110832	5236905	7357256
9110833	5255310	7357262
9110834	5213601	7357312

www.speechpower.com.ph

WATER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
OCTOBER SALE Festival
One (1) Set SOLEREX WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM COMPACT 3000 GPD
WE OFFER
- In-house financing
- bank financing
- low down payment

PACKAGE INCLUSION
One (1) unit Multi-Media Filter (Grundfos Wave)
One (1) unit Activated Carbon Filter (Grundfos Wave)
One (1) unit 20 Micron x 20" Cartridge Filter
One (1) unit 10 Micron x 20" Cartridge Filter
One (1) unit 5 Micron x 20" Cartridge Filter
One (1) unit Reverse Osmosis System (3,000 GPD)
One (1) set Ultra Violet System
One (1) unit Polishing Carbon Filter
One (1) set Ozone System
Installation and Training
Operations Manual

FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US AT:
Plant Office: Bldg. 10 #20 Evangelista St., Santolan, Pasig City
Tel.: 915-3879 to 80 / 915-0731/681-3545 Telefax: 915-3881 Cebu Office: (032) 344-8889 Davao : (082) 225-1485
All drinking water should be Crystal Clear® Purified Drinking Water
E-mail: solerex@pacific.net.ph www.crystalclear.com.ph

MORE THAN GMA'S

Senate bill to double pay of justices, judges

By Carlito Pablo

THE COUNTRY's judges and justices would soon be the highest paid public servants, earning even more than the President of the Philippines under a proposed bill now pending approval by the Senate.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur) yesterday said that Senate Bill No. 2018, which seeks to increase the allowances of court magistrates, will effectively double their basic pay "with some of them getting a monthly salary bigger than that of the President of the Philippines."

"Judges and justices will end up as the highest paid officials in government," Andaya said.

Appeal for patience

But Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations, appealed for patience on the part of judges who the other day went on mass leave to protest the delay in the Senate's approval of the bill which will increase their allowances by 25 percent over a four-year period.

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the Senate to address the grievances of the judges.

"I urge the Senate to act upon the plaint of the courts, and the courts themselves to refrain from forms of protests that would prejudice the public interest," the President said, adding that she is prepared to do everything to help resolve the impasse.

At the Senate, President Franklin M. Drilon assured speedy approval of the bill.

"The Senate would now buckle down to work on urgent legislation, including the bill providing for a standardization of judges' salaries," Drilon said.

Andaya said that once the law is fully implemented, a regional trial court judge will get a monthly pay of P50,666, which is higher than the pay of the Vice President, senators and congressmen and just a few thousands below that of the President who gets P57,750 a month.

The top man in the judiciary, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, will have a monthly pay of P92,400, or double the P46,200 he is presently getting, Andaya pointed out.

Salary standardization

Andaya, however, said that the proposed law does not exempt officials of the judiciary from the benchmark pay set by the Salary Standardization Law for public employees.

"Their base pay in the SSL remains," Andaya said. "But what we did is to increase their allowances."

But due to the tight fiscal situation, the special allowance of judges and justices will be spread over four years with four equal annual installments.

Upon the passage of the law, the first installment due will require a total of P165 million.

Sen. John Osmeña has blocked the approval by the Senate of a congressional bicameral conference committee report on the proposed legislation.

Once the law is passed and effectively implemented in four years, an associate justice of the Supreme Court will have a monthly pay of P80,850.

The presiding justice of the Court of Appeals will get P80,650; associate justice, CA, P57,750; SC court administrator, P80,650; deputy court administrator, P57,750; presiding justice, Court of Tax Appeals, P57,750; associate justice, CTA, P50,665; presiding justice, Sandiganbayan, P80,650; associate justice, Sandiganbayan, P57,750; regional trial court judge, P50,666; metropolitan trial court judge, P48,718; municipal trial court judge, P46,844; municipal circuit trial court judge, P45,042; municipal trial court judge, P45,042; and Sharia circuit court judge, P45,042. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 8, 2003
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 4:1-11
Gospel: Lk 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name, may your kingdom come, give us each day the kind of bread we need, and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong, and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

"Lord, teach us to pray." George Reindrop in his book No Common Task tells how a nurse once taught a man to pray and in doing so changed his whole life, until a dull, disgruntled and dispirited creature became a man of joy. In as much as the nurse's work was done with her hands, she used her hands as a scheme of prayer. Each finger stood for someone. Her thumb was nearest to her, and it reminded her to pray for those who were closest to her. The second finger was used for pointing and it stood for all her teachers in school and hospital. The third finger was the tallest and it stood for the VIPs and leaders in every sphere of life. The fourth finger was the weakest, as every pianist knows, and it stood for those who were in trouble and in pain. The little finger was the smallest and the least important, and to the nurse it stood for herself. (Quoted by William Barclay).

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

ATTN: CAR WASHER • JANITORIAL SERVICE • GAS STATIONS • POULTRIES • SHIPYARDS • HOTELS • RESTAURANTS • INDUSTRIAL FACTORIES • CONFECTIONERIES

We Offer The World's Most Trusted High Pressure Washers & Vacuum Cleaners!

WH-2111
FROM THE NO. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Mitho Plus
Silver Jet

Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.

With AFTER SALES SERVICE

Exclusively Distributed By:

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.

* MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
* QUEZON CITY BRANCHES: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709
162 Del Monte Ave. Nr. Cor. Roosevelt Ave. Tel. 4101086 • 3724429

A BUSINESS FIT TO YOUR BUDGET

LOOK NO FURTHER!
"A WATER REFILLING BUSINESS"
WATER RESOURCES IS THE ANSWER! CHOOSE FROM ANY OF THE PACKAGES FIT TO YOUR BUDGET.

Water Business is the Best Business!
P100,000.00
P350,000.00
P550,000.00

COMPLETE STAGE HIGH PERFORMANCE STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Choose from 1000, 2000, 3000 or 6000 Gallons Capacity ·Free Materials & Accessories ·Free Installation & Site Design ·Free Technical Training Product Support & Services, Etc.

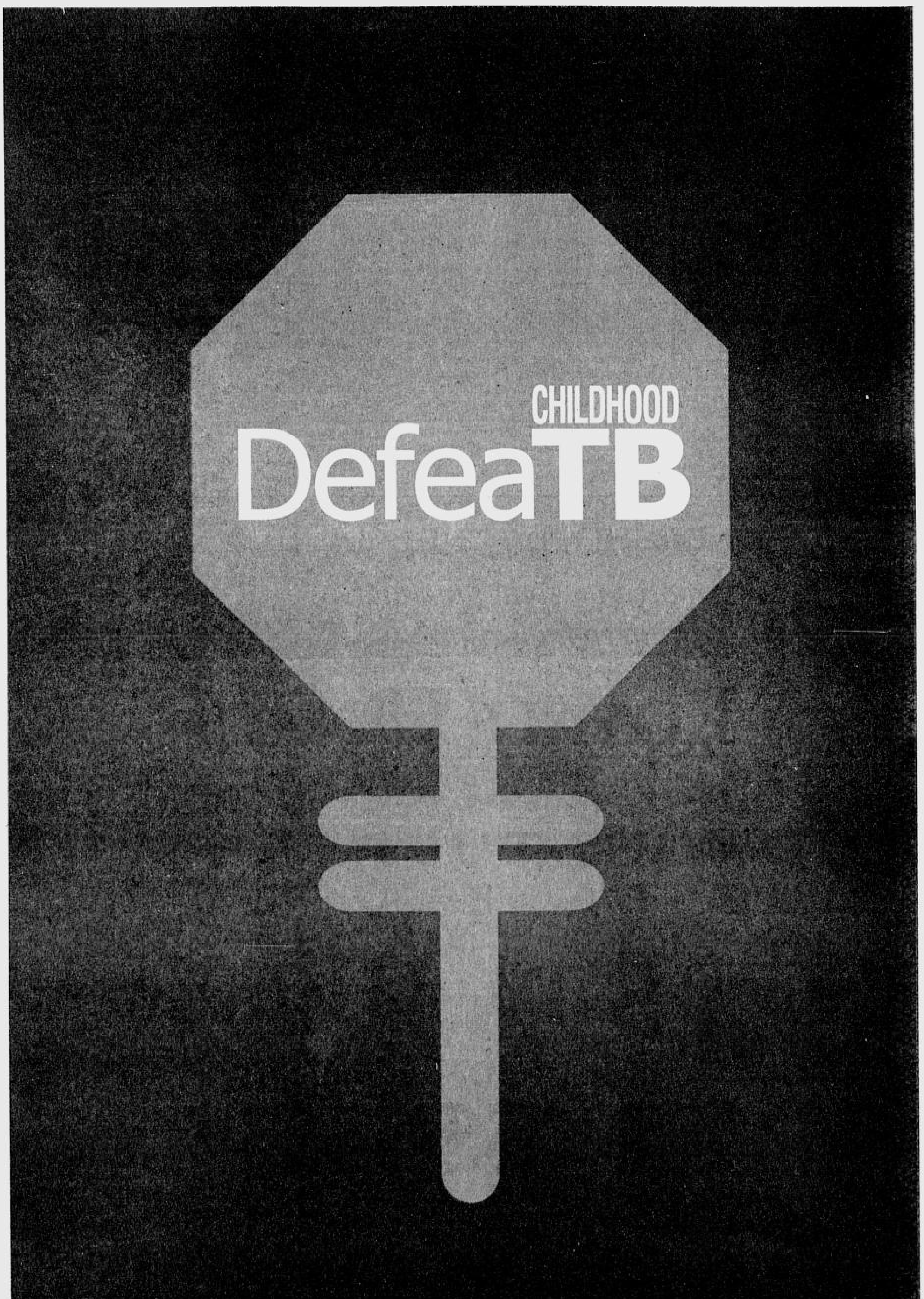
THREE(3) YEARS MAINTENANCE & SERVICE SUPPORT DISCOUNT ON PARTS & ACCESSORIES SUPPORT PRODUCT & MARKETING CONSULTATION

"Offering You Only Quality World Class U.S. Products and Equipment."

*Limited offer only

WRI PHILS., INC.
121 Kamuning Rd., Q.C.
E-Mail us at: wriphil@hotmail.com

Call: (02) 926-5776
(02) 926-5790
Text or Call: (0919) 854-0915
and look for Ms. Mel



A SIGN OF HOPE FOR CHILDHOOD TB.

Childhood TB has cast a dark shadow in our midst. It has slaughtered millions of Filipino children and continues to stalk for more victims. Though the situation seems desperate, we are never without hope. Pediatrica's DefeaTB movement declares war against childhood TB, and we need your help to win.

We challenge you to play a vital role in defeating TB.

We urge you to read and arm yourselves with information about childhood TB and ask your children's pediatrician about TB testing. With your active involvement, we can put a stop to this killer disease.

A message from
PEDIATRICA, INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

RP down to No. 92 on graft list

From page A1

analysts and business people.

Burma, ranked 129, and Indonesia, 122, also had rankings of less than two out of 10, which TI said meant corruption was "pervasive" in those countries.

Bruce Gale, a Singapore-based political risk analyst with Hill and Associates Risk Consultancy, said the TI report would likely have political ramifications in Asia.

Gale pointed to a host of elections scheduled to be held in Asia over the next 12 months, including in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

"Opposition groups are going to pick up on these things and use them," Gale said.

"Whether it will make a difference or not is an entirely different matter but it's certainly an issue that will be discussed," he said.

Gale said corruption was not necessarily getting worse in Asia, but the perception of graft was growing amid the trend for more open societies in Asia.

Economic hardship in many Asian countries also led to a greater focus on corruption.

"When things are going fine, the economy is booming, you don't worry too much about corruption," Gale said.

"But when things start to slow down, people ask what is wrong and corruption is one obvious answer," he said.

Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan were among the few leading lights for Asia, with TI placing them in the top 21 of least corrupt nations.

Vietnam was next on the list of corrupt Asian nations, ranked equal 100 in the world with the likes of Guatemala, Kazakhstan and Moldova on a score of 2.4.

India fared little better, recording a score of 2.8 to rank equal 83rd in the world with Malawi and Romania.

Thailand may be enjoying a booming economy at the moment but TI said corruption was still a big problem in the Southeast Asian nation, giving it a score of three and a share of 70th position in the world.

China and Sri Lanka were next on the list for Asia on equal 66th position in the world and a score of 3.4, followed by South Korea, 4.3 and equal 50th position, then Malaysia with a score of 5.2 and ranking of equal 37th.

TI said the survey did not include all countries, including other nations in Asia with reputations for corruption such as Cambodia and Laos, because of insufficient data.

Singapore stood far above all other nations in Asia in the TI report at fifth in the world and one of only six nations with a score of more than nine, which the watchdog said indicated "very low levels" of perceived corruption.

Hong Kong was equal 14th with Austria on a score of eight, while Japan was equal 21st with a score of seven.

TI head Peter Eigen said that developing countries that showed the political will to curb corruption needed more support.

"Nations starting with a high degree of corruption should not be penalized since they are in the most urgent need of support," he added.

He urged the leaders of developing nations to put in place anti-corruption measures, "but they also urgently require practical help tailored to the needs of their national strategies."

"In addition donor nations and international financial institutions should take a firmer line, stopping support to corrupt governments, and blacklisting international companies caught paying bribes abroad," Eigen said.

Eigen said that even with 133 countries—only those featured in at least three surveys make it onto the list—it could only serve as a "snapshot" as there was insufficient data on others.

Seven out of 10 countries scored less than five out of a clean score of 10 in the survey.

As for developing nations alone, half of them scored less than three out of 10, indicating a high level of perceived corruption.

Although comparisons can be difficult—last year only 102 countries were listed while this year there were 133 because of more reliable information—Eigen pointed to some trends.

He said the situation had improved in Colombia, France, Germany, Malaysia, Norway and Tunisia.

In contrast, a perception of corruption grew in Argentina, Belarus, Chile, Israel, Poland, the United States and Zimbabwe.

Eigen urged developed countries and international companies to fulfill their obligations under an anti-bribery convention drawn up by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"The convention took effect in 1999 but we are still awaiting prosecutions in the courts of the 35 signatory countries," Eigen said.

"The bribes and incentives to corrupt public officials and politicians are undermining the prospects of sustainable development in poorer countries," he said. *AFP*

Finland is No. 1; Bangladesh, 133

BERLIN—A global corruption index released yesterday by the Berlin-based Transparency International highlights countries perceived by business leaders, academics and risk analysts to be the least and most corrupt.

The new index lists countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians.

Last year only 102 countries were listed. This year's total of 133 relates to the fact that more valid and reputable sources have been incorporated, TI said.

Following are some of the key nations, giving their place in a ranking out of the 133 states and their score out of a possible perfect 10. *AFP*

Rank	Country	Pts
1:	Finland,	9.7
2:	Iceland,	9.6
3:	Denmark, New Zealand,	9.5
5:	Singapore,	9.4
6:	Sweden,	9.3
7:	Netherlands,	8.9
8:	Australia, Norway, Switzerland,	8.8
11:	United Kingdom, Canada, Luxembourg,	8.7
14:	Hong Kong, Austria,	8.0
16:	Germany,	7.7
17:	Belgium,	7.6
18:	Ireland, United States,	7.5
20:	Chile,	7.4
Bottom:		
133:	Bangladesh,	1.3
132:	Nigeria,	1.4
131:	Haiti,	1.5
129:	Myanmar, Paraguay,	1.6
124:	Angola, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Georgie, Tajikistan,	1.8
122:	Indonesia, Kenya,	1.9
118:	Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Papua New Guinea,	2.1
113:	Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Uganda,	2.2
Other nations:		
21:	Israel, Japan,	7.0
23:	France, Spain,	6.9
30:	Botswana, Taiwan,	5.7
37:	Malaysia, United Arab Emirates,	5.2
46:	Bolivia, Saudia Arabia,	4.5
48:	Mauritius, South Africa,	4.4
50:	Costa Rica, Greece, South Korea,	4.3
66:	China, Panama, Sri Lanka, Syria,	3.4
70:	Bosnia, Domican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Thailand,	3.3
78:	Armenia, Iran, Lebanon, Mali, Palestine,	3.0
83:	India, Malawi, Romania,	2.8
86:	Russia, Mozambique,	2.7
92:	Albania, Argentina, Ethiopia, Gambia, Pakistan, Philippines, Tanzania, Zambia,	2.5

A SEMINAR ON REALTY BROKERAGE &
HOW TO START & MANAGE A SUCCESSFUL REAL ESTATE OFFICE
Includes qualifications & licensing requirements, sources & how to secure properties to sell, authority to sell, how to be entitled & protect your commission, how to close a transaction, subjects in the licensing exam, how to set up a real estate network; business operations; organizational structures; recruitment techniques; training courses; career path programs; commission structures & incentives & other relevant topics.
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE
For details, call 681-0928 or email urbanet@pacific net ph

TIMELINE: Kuratong case

It started with the arrest of 11 men

Compiled by Ray Leyesa
PDI Research

MAY 17, 1995. Police round up 11 suspected members of Kuratong Baleleng (KB) during raid on No. 12 Palm St., Superville Subdivision, Parañaque.

May 18, 1995. The 11 are killed in supposed shootout on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, during early-morning operation conducted by Anti-Bank Robbery and Intelligence Task Group (ABRITG) led by Chief Supt. Jewel Canson of Philippine National Police.

ABRITG then composed of officers from Traffic Management Command led by Senior Supt. Francisco Zubia Jr.; Presidential Anti-Crime Commission-Task Force Habagat headed by Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson; Central Police District Command led by Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon; and Criminal Investigation Command (CIC) led by Chief Supt. Romeo Acop.

May 19, 1995. PNP releases after-operations report signed by Lacson, Canson, Acop and Zubia.

May 22, 1995. Newspaper reports quote SPO2 Eduardo de los Reyes as saying that killing of 11 supposed KB members was rubout, not shootout.

May 23, 1995. De los Reyes submits sworn statement saying he was part of team that arrested KB members at safe house in Parañaque. Says 11 were bound and brought in two vans to Camp Crame, where decision to summarily execute them was made.

May 26, 1995. Senate committees on justice, national defense and crime open one of three hearings to investigate killings.

SPO2 Corazon de la Cruz, CIC investigator, submits sworn statement corroborating De los Reyes' allegations and saying he was with De los Reyes from the time the 11 were arrested to the time they were killed.

May 31, 1995. Tabloid reporter Armando Capili submits sworn statement saying he was present when the 11 were arrested.

June 1, 1995. PNP Inspectorate files with Ombudsman multiple-murder complaint against Canson, Lacson and 96 ABRITG members.

June 21, 1995. Senate committees report findings: It was rubout that PNP tried to cover up.

July 25, 1995. National Bureau of Investigation reports on its own probe: It was grand conspiracy in ABRITG to summarily execute the 11, which ABRITG leaders later tried to cover up in after-operations report.

Oct. 20, 1995. Ombudsman panel led by Graft Investigator Bienvenido Blancaflor clears Lacson and other 97 respondents.

Nov. 21, 1995. On recommendation of review panel chaired by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Francisco Villa, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto reverses first panel and finds probable cause for prosecution of murder charges against 26 of 98 ABRITG officers and men, 10 as principals and 16 as accessories.

Nov. 21, 1995. Ombudsman files with Sandiganbayan 11 information for murder. Charged as principals are Lacson and 11 others, who immediately move that cases be remanded to Ombudsman for reinvestigation.

Nov. 27, 1995. Sandiganbayan orders remanding of cases to Ombudsman.

Nov. 28, 1995. Acting Special Prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo is removed as chief prosecutor of KB case. It is later found that Tamayo's daughter was a lawyer of Canson's. As member of Villa panel, he voted to clear 98 respondents. A four-member panel is formed to conduct third investigation of case.

Feb. 16, 1996. Acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Roger Berbano, head of third panel, quits after receiving alleged death threats.

Feb. 26, 1996. Unable to reach consensus, third panel submits to Desierto individual findings.

March 1, 1996. Desierto files with Sandiganbayan 11 amended information for murder but downgrades Lacson to accessory.

Charged as principals: Chief Inspectors Michael Ray Aquino and Erwin T. Villacorte, Senior Insp. Joselito T. Esquivel, Insp. Ricardo G. Dandan, SPO4 Vicente P. Arnado, SPO4 Roberto T. Langcauon, SPO2 Virgilio V. Paragas, SPO2 Rolando R. Jimenez, SPO1 Wilfredo G. Cuartero, SPO1 Roberto O. Agbalog and SPO1 Osmundo B. Carino.

As accessories: Lacson, Canson, Acop, Zubia, Supt. Almario A. Hilario, Chief Inspectors Cesar O. Mancao II and Gil L. Meneses, Senior Inspectors Glenn Dumlao and Rolando Anduyan, Insp. Ceasar Tannagan, SPO3 Willy Nuas, SPO3 Cicero S. Bacolod, PO2 Norberto Lasaga, PO2 Leonardo Gloria and PO2 Alejandro G. Liwanag.

March 1996. Lacson questions jurisdiction of Sandiganbayan before Supreme Court.

Jan. 20, 1999. High court upholds Lacson petition and directs transfer of cases to Quezon City Regional Trial Court. Cases eventually raffled off to RTC Branch 81 of Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr.

March 31, 1999. Agnir "provisionally" dismisses murder charges against Lacson and 25 others after all accused present affidavits of recantation of De los Reyes, De la Cruz, Capili and private complainants.

March 24, 2001. New witnesses—Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos and former Insp. Ysmael Yu submit sworn statements saying 11 suspected KB men were summarily executed.

April 17, 2001. Department of Justice issues order constituting new panel to reinvestigate/reopen KB cases.

June 5, 2001. Lacson files petition with RTC Branch 40 of Manila for temporary restraining order on preliminary investigation.

Court denies petition; Lacson goes to Court of Appeals (CA).

June 6, 2001. DOJ files new cases against Lacson and several others, with Lacson as principal.

Those accused: Lacson, Canson, Acop, Zubia, Aquino, Mancao, Dumlao, Hilario, Esquivel, Villacorte, Meneses, Anduyan, Tannagan, Arnado, Langcauon, Dandan, Cuartero, Agbalog, Carino, Lasaga, Gloria, Liwanag, Bacolod, Nuas, Paragas, Jimenez, Senior Supt. Zorobabel S. Laureles, SPO4 Angelito N. Caisip, SPO4 Antonio Frias, SPO3 Juanito B. Manaois, SPO2 Cecilio T. Morito, SPO2 Reynaldo C. Las Piñas, and civilian agents Elmer Ferrer and Romy Cruz.

Aug. 24, 2001. Voting 4-1, CA special 3rd division dismisses 11 complaints of murder on technicality: lapse of two-year prescriptive period for reviving case. It also orders Quezon City RTC Branch 81 and DOJ to stop further action on complaints against Lacson.

Sept. 5, 2001. Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo asks Supreme Court to lift CA injunction.

May 28, 2002. Voting 13-0, high court remands case to QC RTC Branch 81 now under Judge Theresa Yadao "so that the state prosecutors and ... Lacson can adduce evidence" on whether case should be dismissed or not.

April 1, 2003. Voting 10-4 with one abstention, Supreme Court orders reopening of KB case including multiple-murder case against Lacson, saying "state is entitled to justice." It directs Yadao to "proceed with Criminal Cases Nos. 01-101102 to 01-101112 with deliberate dispatch."

April 15, 2003. Lacson questions high court's decision and claims government is persecuting him to block his bid for the presidency. ***(Sources: DOJ resolution and PDI Archives)***

'Jose Pidal' running . . .

From page A1

confirmed that he would seek the congressional seat for the fifth district of Negros Occidental next year.

And he does not think the Jose Pidal controversy would be a stumbling block to his bid to enter politics.

Arroyo even attended yesterday's meeting of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats national directorate which endorsed the presidential candidacy of his sister-in-law, President Macapagal-Arroyo, in the 2004 elections.

Arroyo is chair of Lakas-CMD for Western Visayas.

In August, Sen. Panfilo Lacson alleged that the First Gentleman laundered P260 million in campaign contributions intended for Ms Macapagal. The money, Lacson said, was kept in secret bank accounts, some of which were under the name of Jose Pidal. After 14 days of silence, Ignacio Arroyo went public and admitted being the owner of the Jose Pidal accounts, but denied having laundered money.

Yesterday, Arroyo told reporters that he had been going around Negros Occidental trying to feel the pulse of the people.

He said he was eyeing the seat held at present by Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr., who is on his second term as congressman.

Lozada yesterday said he was eyeing the possibility of being included in the senatorial slate of Lakas-CMD to pave the way for Arroyo's unchallenged bid.

But Lozada said he was ready to do battle with Arroyo for the congressional seat if he would not be considered as a senatorial candidate.

Asked what party he would run under, Lozada, a protégé of former President Fidel Ramos, said: "I am an original Lakas."

For his part, Arroyo said: "If Lozada runs for the Senate, we will support him. If he is going to run for Congress, then may the best man win."

Arroyo said he might consider joining the United Negros Alliance (UNA), a local party.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Maranon, UNA chair, said Arroyo's joining the party would have to be decided by the chair of the congressional district where he plans to run.

A PARTNERSHIP ETCHED IN STONE,
rooted on solid land and soaring to higher grounds...
ROYALE HOMES
MARKETING CORPORATION
CONGRATULATES OUR DEVELOPER
STA. LUCIA
Realty & Development, Inc.
2003 CREBA
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR
We will continue to deliver outstanding development projects that provide better quality living and greater opportunities for growth to our privileged stakeholders.
THIS IS A COMMITMENT AS REAL AS THE LAND WE STAND ON.
Royale Homes Marketing Corporation 6th Flr. State Center II, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
(02) 723-4014, 726-4317, 726-4205, 724-7101. www.royalehomes.com

SC: Ping must stand trial for 'Kuratong'

From page A1

and Justices Josue Bellosillo, Artemio Panganiban, Leonardo Quisumbing, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Adolfo Azcuna concurred with Callejo.

Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Jose Vitug and Reynato Puno dissented, while Justices Antonio Carpio and Dante Tinga abstained.

Justice Renato Corona is on leave.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel observed that the vote was "very close."

"To my mind, this indicates that it is not a product of pressure [by Malacañang], and that it looks like it has been agonized over by the justices," Pimentel said.

At press time yesterday, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court has yet to be officially informed by the high court of the re-raffle of the cases.

Acting Clerk of Court Perlita Elly said the Quezon City RTC was still awaiting formal notice by the tribunal, but that the re-raffle would be conducted at the sala of Judge Natividad Dizon of RTC Branch 106 probably on Thursday.

Elly added that the cases might be handled by one of the three special courts under Judges Jose Paneda (Branch 222), Maria Theresa Yadao (Branch 81) and Monina Senorosa (Branch 76).

Not singled out

Lacson had claimed that the revival of the charges against him in 2001 violated his right to due process and equal protection under the law.

He said Section 8, Rule 117 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure—or the two-year prescription period—should be applied retroactively to the 11 criminal cases.

He also said that with the application of the prescription period, the provisional dismissal of the cases against him in 1999 had become permanent.

But the tribunal disagreed, and specified that it was not after him.

"The ruling of the Court in its April 1, 2003 resolution and its ruling today would be the same, regardless of who the party or parties involved are, whether a senator of the republic or an ordinary citizen," it said, adding:

"The respondent's plaint that he was being singled out by the prospective application of the new rule simply because before the court issued its [April resolution], he announced his candidacy for the presidency of the republic for the 2004 elections, has no factual basis.

"The bare and irrefutable fact is that it was in this case where the issue of the retroactive/prospective application of the new rule was first raised before the court."

The tribunal said Lacson's claim that a "prospective application of the new rule" would deny him due process and violate the equal protection of laws was "barren of merit."

"It proceeds from an erroneous assumption that the new rule was approved by the court solely for his benefit, in derogation of the right of the state to due process. The new rule was approved by the court to enhance the right of due process of both the state and the accused," it said.

The high court said the new rule was intended to be applied prospectively.

"For if the intention of the court was otherwise, it would defeat the very purpose for which it was intended, namely, to give the state a period of two years from notice of the provisional dismissal of criminal cases with the express consent of the accused," it said.

The tribunal also said Lacson failed to comply with the "essential prerequisites" of Section 8, Rule 117.

"When the respondent admitted [before the Court of Appeals] that he did not move for the dismissal of Criminal Cases Nos. Q-99-81679 to Q-99-81689 in his motion for a judicial determination of probable cause, and that he did not give his express consent to the provisional dismissal of the said cases, he in fact admitted that one of the essential requisites of Section 8, Rule 117 was absent," it said.

It added that it had "thoroughly examined the voluminous records" from the Sandiganbayan and the Quezon City RTC, and "found no proof that the requisite notices were even served on all the heirs of the victims."

Strong arm

But in the dissenting opinion, Justice Santiago warned that the Supreme Court's image and civil liberties would "suffer" with its decision.

She said the tribunal had allowed "the use of the strong arm of the law to oppressively prosecute and persecute a public officer whom the powers-that-be detest and whom they seek to render completely ineffective."

"The public image of the court will suffer because of the way [it] has decided the motion for reconsideration of [Lacson] who has become the target of powerful personalities in the political arena," she said.

Santiago also said: "Equating the awesome powers of the state with individual freedoms and formally extending the protections of the Bill of Rights to the state is not a healthy development.

"With all due respect, the justifications in the *ponencia* display an insensitivity to individual liberties. The spirited defense of the powers of the state in the context of individual freedoms is bewildering, to say the least. It is hoped that such a cavalier approach to the Bill of Rights is a passing aberration and that the court will again stand firmly as the constitutional bulwark against State power and oppression.

"The court should not remain silent and, more importantly, should make a firm stand when a citizen is harassed and persecuted by formidable powers of government."

Santiago said the court should not give the impression that Bill of Rights protections such as due process should equally extend to and protect the state in the same way that they protected individual persons.

"Again, this is not only error; it is also not healthy for the development of the law of the Constitution," she said.

Enforcement

In Bali, President Macapagal-Arroyo spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the law would be enforced vis-a-vis Lacson's case.

"She says nobody is above the rule of law, and that includes members of her family," Bunye added, referring to the President's eldest child, Pampanga Gov. Mikey Arroyo, who is implicated in the Philippine Sports Commission's alleged irregular importation of expensive race horses.

In Manila, Jesus Santos, lawyer of the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, said Lacson should stop blaming Malacañang and the First Gentleman for the Supreme Court's ruling.

Santos said in a statement that when Arroyo was interviewed on radio, the latter was "merely repeating reports speculating on the Supreme Court deliberations on the motion for reconsideration" that Lacson had filed. ***(See story on Page A1)***

"Mr. Lacson should face the music and accept responsibility for his past actions. The Filipino people are impatient with the slow grind of the wheels of justice," Santos said.

He said that after more than eight years, the "cold-blooded killing" of the 11 alleged members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang was "finally getting resolved."

"The senator should not try to stop the wheels of justice from turning," the lawyer said. ***With reports from Tina Santos and Alcuin Papa in Manila; Dona Pazzibugan in Bali***

Ping camp says Palace pressured high court

From page A1

ly ordered arrested.

He said he would question the order for the case to be "re-raffled," stressing that "nobody asked for it."

"We found it odd and unusual," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "It raises a lot of speculation that it was meant to favor something."

Artemio Tuquero, a former justice secretary and now legal spokesperson for Lacson, likewise said the senator should file a motion for reconsideration on the high court's order to re-raffle the case.

Fortun pointed out that the Quezon City Regional Trial Court originally handling the Kuratong case had yet to determine probable cause—a matter pending since June 2001.

"It is not yet an issue right now," he said of Lacson's possible arrest. "The judge must first be convinced that the information filed was justified."

Fortun noted that the voting by the Supreme Court "suggests that the house is divided."

The lawyer also said that in their phone conversation, it was not discussed whether the senator would deliver his third "Incredible Hulk" exposé against Arroyo when he surfaces. Lacson has accused Arroyo of laundering P260 million in campaign contributions to his wife.

Persecution

Lacson said politics was behind the "political persecution" that he said he was now experiencing in the hands of the high court.

He said the third division of the Court of Appeals, in its decision to dismiss the case filed by the Department of Justice on Aug. 24, 2002, pointed out that "hints of persecution" were "manifest" in the case against him.

He also said the main issue in the motion for reconsideration he filed at the Supreme Court was that the two-year prescription period for dismissed cases to become permanently dismissed applied in his case.

"I am willing to debate with Chief Justice Hilario Davide on this matter even if I'm not a lawyer," he said.

Lacson said the justices should respect the time-honored principle of applying the law retroactively especially when it favored the accused. He cited the case of movie actor Robin Padilla, who was sentenced to 17 years in jail for illegal possession of arms but served less than six years when a subsequent law authored by Sen. Ramon Revilla reduced the penalty for the offense he committed.

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña said the tribunal's ruling "gives a chilling effect on the political [sphere] because this is the first time that a President has the majority of the members of the court appointed by her," and "the first time that an announced presidential candidate, who happens to be a leading opposition senator, is going to be subjected to arrest."

Osmeña said the questions that begged answer were: "What is in store for democracy? Are they going to trump up charges against anyone who is going to announce his candidacy so that the President runs unopposed?"

Political color

Lacson's other colleagues in the opposition assailed the ruling.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said he could not help but see "political color" in it.

"There was nothing great that happened from the [former] decision to the present. What compelled the justices to change their minds?" Sotto said.

"Political harassment" was how Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada described the ruling.

She said it would not only affect Lacson but also aggravate the highly charged political atmosphere.

"The people are angry," Estrada said. "They [allies of the Macapagal administration] don't want the exposé on Jose Pidal to continue because they are afraid that [more] documents would be added [by Lacson]."

Estrada said the ruling was part of an orchestrated move to "muzzle" opposition leaders. She predicted that would backfire on the Macapagal administration.

Asked if Lacson's predicament could even unite the still fragmented opposition, she answered in the affirmative.

Asked to comment on Lacson's absence, Sen. Gregorio Honasan said Lacson was merely "exercising his prerogatives in light of developments in the judiciary."

Honasan himself made himself "inaccessible" after he was charged with coup d'etat for his alleged involvement in the failed mutiny on July 27.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Lacson had sent "an official notice" stating that he was not attending yesterday's session because of an "out-of-town engagement."

The notice is "similar to what he said" on Monday, Drilon said.

Not automatic

Drilon and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. explained to reporters that the issuance of an arrest warrant was not an automatic consequence of the tribunal's dismissal of Lacson's motion for reconsideration.

"The Quezon City RTC will still have to determine if the evidence against him will justify the issuance of such a warrant," Drilon said.

According to Drilon, Lacson has several legal remedies, including the filing of a petition for a judicial determination of probable cause.

"This means Senator Lacson will have the opportunity to ask the trial court to determine if there is adequate evidence to justify the issuance of an arrest warrant pursuant to Section 2 of the Bill of Rights," he said.

Pimentel said the ruling "calls for the assignment of the cases to a judge after the raffle."

And assigning the 11 criminal cases to another Quezon City judge will entail more time, he said, adding that he expected the establishment of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant to take weeks, even months.

Sen. Edgardo Angara went so far as to say that Lacson, or any other member of Congress, could not be arrested while the legislature was in session.

"There's an absolute immunity [from arrests and criminal suits] when Congress is in session," he said.

Informed that Pimentel and Sen. Joker Arroyo had said parliamentary immunity covered only cases carrying a penalty of six years and below, Angara said: "Six years? I have to check."

He added: "If that is the case, they can file any number of cases against the opposition, and we will get decimated."

But Angara said the opposition would not resort to extra-constitutional means to get back at the Macapagal administration.

"This is a legal case, so [it] should be pursued judiciously," he said.

Orientique & Prime Home Interior

SUPER MEGA SALE

ENJOY UP TO 70% DISCOUNT

ON SELECTED ITEMS

Unbelievable reductions on unique and highly collectible furniture

Extended up to October 15

We offer a wide collection of antique and contemporary furniture from Indonesia, China, India, Pakistan, and Tibet. You will also find a superb collection of Persian and Oriental Carpets, Killims, and Durrie Rugs at affordable prices.

Come soonest so as not to miss this fabulous opportunity of the year

Orientique
Warehouse no,7 Pine
st. Mandaluyong
746-6839, 746-6850

Prime Home Interior
Warehouse no,2 pine st
(cor. Sheridan st.) Mandaluyong
747-5121, 747-5122

Orientique Alabang
304 Home precinct commerce cor.
Filinvest Aves west gate,
(beside Fitness First) 746-6850

SINCE 1986

DLI GENERICS

Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!

Suggested Retail Price August 8, 2003

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	25.00	104.00	79.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.80	20.85	19.05/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.00	63.50	42.50/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.75	2.45	1.70/tab
Antibiotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	3.10	8.95	5.85/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓	37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot

Save as much as 80%

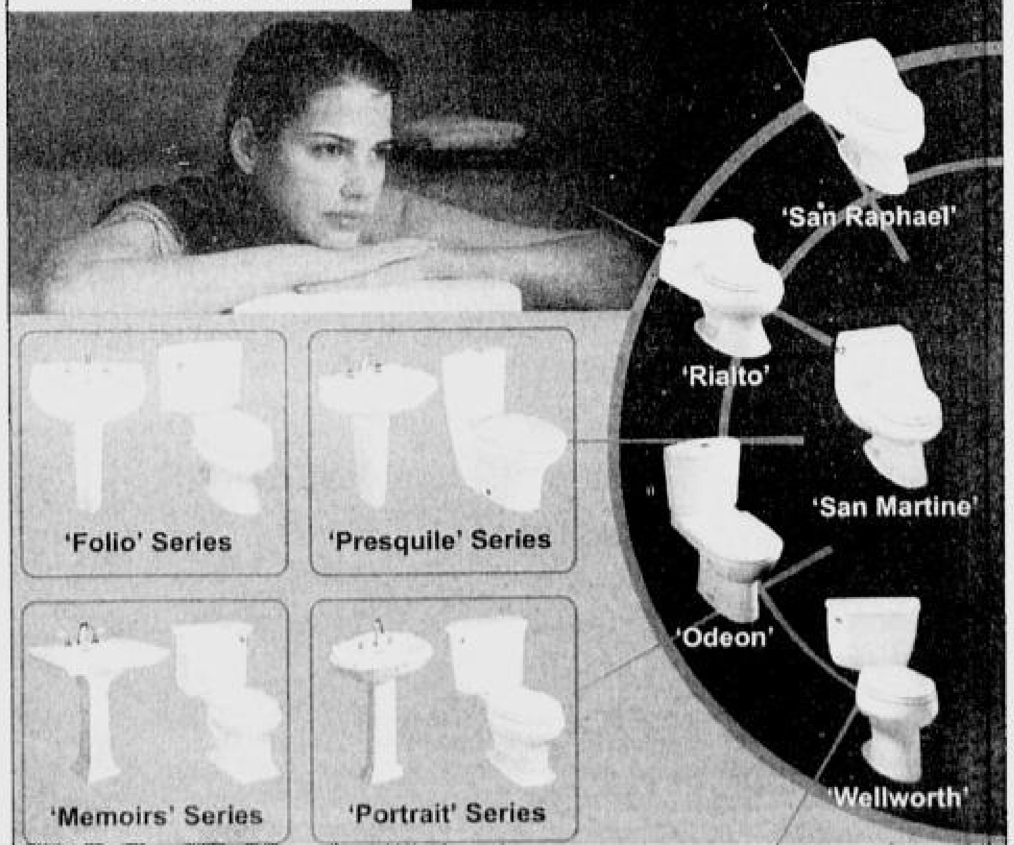
Available at the following and all Factory-priced Drugstores:

Watsons EMILENE'S PHARMACY Carlos SUPERDRUG Rose Pharmacy Generics Dist. Center

Tel #s. 711-3933, 712-4990, 743-1636 | Visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

Get a chance to own bathroom's finest luxury combined with Special Packages



DEXTERTON CORPORATION
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel. 362-1111 361-6006 Fax No. 362-0524
E-mail: dexteron@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

SHARON THREAT

Israel to strike at enemies anywhere

JERUSALEM—In his first public comments since an Israeli air strike against Syria, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday his nation would not hesitate to strike at its enemies wherever they were.

Sharon's threat came two days after Israeli warplanes bombed a suspected Islamic Jihad training base outside the Syrian capital of Damascus in the first major Israeli attack on Syrian soil in three decades. That bombing came in retaliation for an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing Saturday that killed 19 people in a restaurant in the northern city of Haifa.

"Israel will not be deterred from protecting its citizens and will strike its enemies in every place and in every way," Sharon said at a memorial service for Israeli soldiers killed during the 1973 Middle East war.

The attack on the reported militant base led to widespread international condemnation and fears that the three-year Palestinian uprising could widen to include other neighboring countries. After the attack, Israel accused Syria of harboring and funding Islamic Jihad and also named Iran as a key backer of the militant group.

However, Sharon also said he was open to peace overtures.

"We will not miss any openings or opportunities to reach an arrangement with our neighbors and comprehensive peace," he said. "Only with this combination can we be sure that this generation will see with its own eyes the end of this war and will reach the gates of peace."

The attack on Syria led to an escalation of tensions along the border between Israel and Lebanon, where Syria is the main power-broker. Early Tuesday, a Lebanese boy was killed in an explosion in a village near the border with Israel. Hours earlier, an Israeli soldier was killed in a cross-border shooting.

Cabinet decision

Israel's Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Tuesday that the Cabinet in charge of security decided at a meeting on Aug. 19—following a Hamas bus bombing that killed 23 people—to target an Islamic Jihad training camp near Damascus, but postponed the air raid for operational reasons.

After the Haifa suicide bombing on Saturday, the Israeli military said it was possible to carry out the operation near Damascus, and a group of senior Cabinet ministers approved the air raid, Olmert said.

Israeli warplanes bombed the training camp—which apparently has been abandoned for some time—early Sunday.

"We have no limitations regarding the targets and the goals so long as they are, in the end, connected to the terrorist acts," Olmert told Israel Radio. "There is no (retaliation) too strong for these things that are done to us."

Raanan Gissin, a Sharon aide, said Israel's Cabinet in charge of security decided after the Aug. 19 bus bombing that "there would be no limitations, not even geographic, to get the leadership or the infrastructure of the terrorist groups."

"The Syrians have a choice . . . they can remove, dismantle the bases of the terrorist organizations in their midst or suffer the consequences of having these organizations and groups operating from Damascus," Gissin said. "There is no more immunity."

The Israeli air raid came after two clear messages that Israel means business, Gissin said. The first message came shortly after the Iraq war when US Secretary of State Colin Powell gave Syrian President Bashar Assad an Israeli demand that Damascus remove the militant groups operating in Syria, he said.

In August, Israeli warplanes flew over Assad's summer palace in Latakia, Gissin said. The warplanes reportedly flew so low that windows in the palace shattered.

Message to Assad

Now, Israel wanted to send a message to both the militant groups and to Assad, Gissin said.

"We hope the Syrians will sober up and realize that what they are doing is endangering them," Gissin said. "Hopefully, Assad will get the message."

In Tuesday's violence, Lebanese security officials and residents of the southern Lebanese border village of Houla said Ali Yassin, 4, was killed and his twin brother wounded in the explosion.

It was not known whether the explosion was a falling anti-aircraft shell fired from Lebanon or a projectile aimed at Israel that fell short, the Lebanese officials said.

The Israeli Army said at least three mortar shells were shot early Tuesday from Lebanon toward northeastern Israel. Israel Radio reported the Lebanese boy was killed when one of the shells landed short. No injuries were reported on the Israeli side.

Within minutes of the explosion, Israeli military fighter jets and helicopter gunships flew reconnaissance missions over the border area near Houla, villagers said.

In the incident Monday in which an Israeli soldier was killed, the Israeli Army said shots were fired by a sniper of the Syrian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group. The sniper targeted Israeli soldiers patrolling the border with Lebanon, and the soldiers fired back but did not identify hitting any people or structures, the army said. *AP*

2 Russians, Briton win Nobel Prize for physics

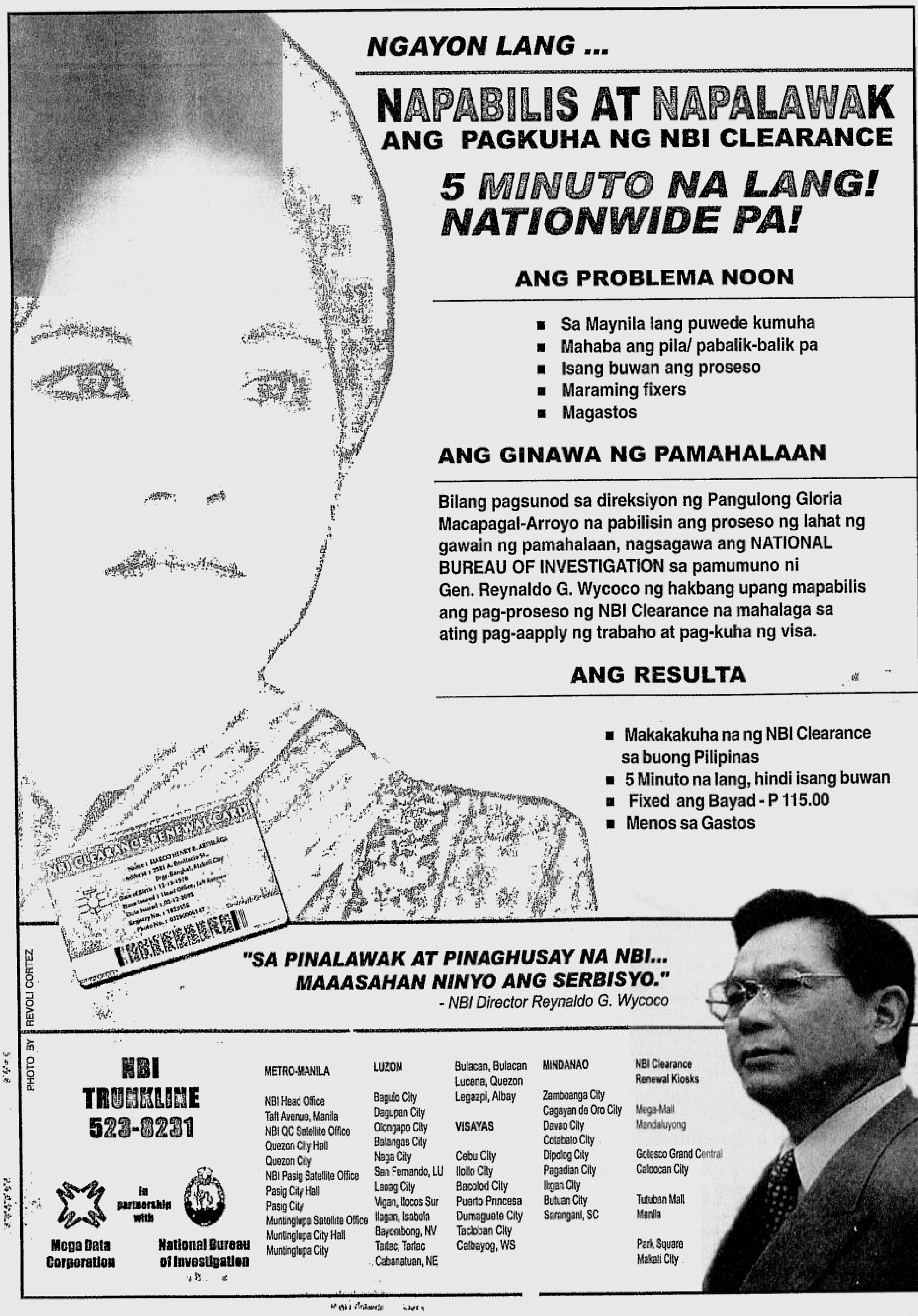
STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Alexei A. Abrikosov, Vitaly L. Ginzburg and Anthony J. Leggett won the 2003 Nobel Prize in physics, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Tuesday.

The trio was awarded the prize for their work in quantum physics concerning superconductivity and superfluidity.

Superconducting material is used, as an example, in magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, and can gave deeper insight into the ways in which matter behaves in its lowest and most ordered state, the academy said in its citation.

Abrikosov, 75, a Russian and American citizen; Ginzburg, 87, a Russian; and Leggett, 65, a British and American citizen, were worked to improve knowledge of superconductivity and superfluidity.

At low temperatures, certain metals will let an electric current pass through them without any resistance, the academy. *AP*



NGAYON LANG ...

NAPABILIS AT NAPALAWAK
ANG PAGKUHA NG NBI CLEARANCE

5 MINUTO NA LANG!
NATIONWIDE PA!

ANG PROBLEMA NOON

- Sa Maynila lang puwede kumuha
- Mahaba ang pila/ pabalik-balik pa
- Isang buwan ang proseso
- Maraming fixers
- Magastos

ANG GINAWA NG PAMAHALAAN

Bilang pagsunod sa direksiyon ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na pabilisin ang proseso ng lahat ng gawain ng pamahalaan, nagsagawa ang NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION sa pamumuno ni Gen. Reynaldo G. Wycoco ng hakbang upang mapabilis ang pag-proseso ng NBI Clearance na mahalaga sa ating pag-aapply ng trabaho at pag-kuha ng visa.

ANG RESULTA

- Makakakuha na ng NBI Clearance sa buong Pilipinas
- 5 Minuto na lang, hindi isang buwan
- Fixed ang Bayad - P 115.00
- Menos sa Gastos

"SA PINALAWAK AT PINAGHUSAY NA NBI...
MAAASAHAN NINYO ANG SERBISYO."
- NBI Director Reynaldo G. Wycoco

PHOTO BY REVOLI CORTEZ

NBI
TRUNKLINE
523-8231

Mega Data Corporation in partnership with National Bureau of Investigation

METRO-MANILA
NBI Head Office
Taft Avenue, Manila
NBI QC Satellite Office
Quezon City Hall
Quezon City
NBI Pasig Satellite Office
Pasig City Hall
Pasig City
Muntinglupa Satellite Office
Muntinglupa City Hall
Muntinglupa City

LUZON
Baguio City
Dagupan City
Olongapo City
Balangas City
Naga City
San Fernando, LU
Laoag City
Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Ilagan, Isabela
Bayombong, NV
Tarlac, Tarlac
Cabanatuan, NE
Bulacan, Bulacan
Lucena, Quezon
Legazpi, Albay

VISAYAS
Cebu City
Iloilo City
Bacolod City
Puerto Princesa
Dumaguete City
Tacloban City
Calbayog, WS

MINDANAO
Zamboanga City
Cagayan de Oro City
Davao City
Cotabato City
Dipolog City
Pagadian City
Iligan City
Butuan City
Sarangani, SC

NBI Clearance Renewal Kiosks
Mega-Mall
Mandaluyong

Gotesco Grand Central
Caloocan City

Tutuban Mall
Manila

Park Square
Makati City

WORLDBRIEFS

Turmoil in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Large portions of Baghdad were in turmoil Tuesday after attackers fired an explosive charge into the Foreign Ministry compound, former intelligence officers demanding back pay or jobs hurled paving stones at American forces and US soldiers confronted a big demonstration of Shiite Muslims after closing a mosque and allegedly arresting the imam. There were no known injuries in any of the incidents, but traffic in the center of the capital was at a near standstill with streets around the foreign ministry and Saddam Hussein's former Republican Palace—headquarters of the US-lead Coalition Provisional Authority —blocked by US soldiers in armored vehicles and Iraqi police. The compounds are about a kilometer apart. *AP*

Funeral turns violent

ISLAMABAD—Hundreds of Islamic seminary students went on a rampage at the funeral of an assassinated hardline Sunni Muslim politician Tuesday, setting fire to a Shiite Muslim shrine and a movie theater, smashing shop windows and chanting anti-Shiite slogans. The violence at the funeral for Maulana Azam Tariq, leader of the banned Sipah-e-Sahaba extremist group and a member of Parliament, raised fears that Tariq's assassination on Monday could spark a new wave of sectarian killing in a country that has seen far too much of it in recent years. Tariq was gunned down Monday afternoon along with three bodyguards and a driver as they drove near a toll plaza on Islamabad's southwestern outskirts. On Tuesday, thousands flooded a main traffic intersection in front of the Parliament building for the funeral. *AP*

Harsher crackdown

MOSCOW—The newly elected pro-Russian president of Chechnya vowed in a newspaper interview published Tuesday to surround himself with a loyal team and launch an "even harsher" crackdown on separatist forces, "If I am head of the republic, that means my people must be everywhere," Akhmad Kadyrov told the Kommersant daily, adding that the towns and districts of the troubled mountainous territory must not be ruled by different clans. "From now on I am going to be even harsher. It can't be otherwise. They have to submit to the president," the 52-year-old former Muslim cleric said. Kadyrov was elected president of the war-torn Russian breakaway republic in a landslide election Sunday, denounced as a sham by rights groups and greeted with serious international skepticism. *AFP*

Old man and the sea

TOKYO—A Japanese man thought he would try something new—snorkeling—for his 70th birthday and ended up in a 19-hour swim for his life after being swept out to sea by a strong tide, a maritime official said Tuesday. Hideo Murasugi set off on his first snorkeling expedition at noon Sunday at a reef on the southern Japan island of Ishigaki, about 1,600 km south of Tokyo. His family reported him missing when he didn't return that evening and authorities sent out a search party, according to Ishigaki Maritime Safety Department spokesperson Kazuo Toji. Murasugi swam ashore unassisted Monday morning after spending the night dog-paddling and floating in the water while he waited for the tide to turn. Nineteen hours after entering the water, he made it to shore, Toji said. *AP*

Castration trial

McKEESPORT, Pennsylvania—A man who police say posed as a doctor and castrated a transgendered woman at her request was ordered to stand trial for aggravated assault. Doug Lenhart, 48, also is charged with reckless endangerment and unauthorized practice of medicine and surgery. No trial date was set, and Lenhart was free on $25,000 bond. Catherine Watson, 45, told a district court judge at a preliminary hearing Monday that she nearly bled to death from the Sept. 12 procedure, which was done on the dining room table of her McKeesport home in suburban Pittsburgh. She had to be hospitalized. Asked by Justice Thomas Brletic if she wanted to see Lenhart prosecuted, a weeping Watson didn't answer directly. "I don't want him to do this again... I don't think he's capable," she said. *AP*